



4 November 2011

The Research Director
Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee
Parliament House
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BRISBANE QLD 4000
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CCA SUBMISSION – STRATEGIC CROPPING BILL 2011

Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCA) is the peak industry body for the \$7 billion-a-year heavy construction materials industry in Australia. Our members are involved in the extraction and processing of quarry products, as well as the production and supply of cement, pre-mixed concrete and supplementary materials. A list of members in Queensland is provided at Annexure 1. We welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee (EAREC) inquiry into the Strategic Cropping Bill 2011 (the Bill).

About the industry

The cement, concrete, extractive industries are fundamental to Queensland. For example, 90% percent of all extractive products are used in the construction of homes, commercial buildings, schools, hospitals, roads and bridges.

Extractive resources are finite, site specific and limited in occurrence by geological conditions. As they are high volume low cost materials, industry operations must be located close to the communities that use them if they are to be economically viable and not impose too great an environmental and social cost. In addition, the use of land for extractive industry is a gradual process which involves quarrying only part of the land at any given point and progressively expands to the balance of the relevant land. Further information regarding the unique nature of the heavy construction materials industry is provided in Annexure 2.

It is also important to note that extractive resources have a relatively overall small footprint, and differ from most other mineral resources in that they are generally not exported overseas, but are used in Queensland (including by the State Government) for essential infrastructure.

Planning and development of new and existing resource material sites is of vital importance to maintain adequate supplies to meet the continued growth of our cities and urban environments, and to contribute to the reconstruction of Queensland after the 2011 flooding and cyclone events.

Comments on the Bill

CCA understands that agricultural land reserves, such as good cropping land, are important to Queensland's sustainable future.

However, sand and gravel resources are becoming more difficult to source, and are often located often under cropping land. In addition, hard rock deposits, such as basalt, may also occur in cropping land areas.

This has been recognised by the Government through the provisions of the Bill which exempt Key Resource Areas from Strategic Cropping Land provisions. We are very supportive of these provisions, and acknowledge the Government's willingness to address industry's earlier concerns on this matter.

However, as the Bill does not exempt sites in non-KRA areas, the legislation will still impact on the ability of some operators to extract materials for the local construction industry.

It is important to note there are sites suitable for the extraction of construction materials that are located outside Key Resource Areas but within Protection Areas, and on land that meets the strategic cropping land criteria. Whilst there exists the “exceptional circumstances” provisions in the Bill (that is, resources must not be found at an alternative site, as well as provide significant benefit to the State), we understand that such sites would not be able to meet this criteria.

As such, CCAA believes that consideration should be given to ensuring that the “exceptional circumstances” provisions allow for the extraction of industrial or building materials (such as sand and gravel) in locations where proponents could demonstrate a local regional need. Such proponents would obviously need to continue to meet other planning, development and assessment approvals from state and local authorities.

This is especially pertinent in the current context, where a significant amount of resources are required for the rebuild of the State’s road and transport infrastructure following the flood and cyclone events earlier this year – particularly in regional and remote parts of Queensland.

In addition, the exclusion of such sites would result in a relatively overall small footprint, and would not be incompatible with the overall intent of the legislation to effectively balance the competing interests of farming and resource development for the long term benefit of the State.

Such amendments to the “exceptional circumstances” provision would also be consistent with the recent Queensland Government decision to exclude industrial/building minerals from the halting of mining exploration permits near urban areas (Restricted Area 384). This decision was made to ensure that the construction industry has access to necessary materials, and guard against increased housing construction costs.

Once again, CCAA thanks you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the EAREC inquiry into the Strategic Cropping Land Bill 2011. To further discuss any of the issues raised in the submission, please contact me on 3227 5210 or email aaron.johnstone@ccaa.com.au

Yours sincerely



Aaron Johnstone
State Director - Queensland

**CEMENT CONCRETE & AGGREGATES AUSTRALIA
MEMBERSHIP**

FOUNDATION MEMBERS



ORDINARY MEMBERS

<p>Aidan J Graham Pty Ltd Alsafe Pre-Mix Concrete Pty Ltd Axedale Sands & Gravel Barossa Quarries Pty Ltd Barro Group Benedict Sand & Gravel Besmaw Pty Ltd BIS Industries Limited T/A BIS Industrial Logistics Bowen Tug & Barge Pty Ltd Brisbane City Council T/A Bracalba Quarries Broadway & Frame Premix Concrete Pty Ltd Byrne Bros Pty Ltd Clare Quarry Pty Ltd Clay & Mineral Sales Pty Ltd Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd Concrete 4 Goulburn Concrete Taxi Pty Ltd Concrit Pty Ltd CSR PGH Bricks Davalan Concrete Pty Ltd D K Quarries Pty Ltd Elvin Group Pty Ltd Entire Concrete Pty Ltd</p>	<p>Eziway Concrete (T/as T & M Lynch Pty Ltd) Fulton Hogan Construction Pty Ltd Gaspersic Contracting Pty Ltd Glenella Quarry Pty Ltd Handycrrete Concrete Pty Ltd HBMI Pty Ltd H B Resources Pty Ltd Hillview Quarries Pty Ltd Hymix Australia Pty Ltd Lime Industries Pty Ltd Independent Cement & Lime Pty Ltd Lloyd's North Pty Ltd Mackay Sand and Gravel Sales Mantina Quarries Metromix Concrete Pty Ltd MSD Construction Pty Ltd MSP Group Pty Ltd Mount Marrow Blue Metal Quarries Pty Ltd Neilsen's Quality Gravels Pty Ltd Nucrush Pty Ltd Ostwald Quarries Pty Ltd Premix Concrete Pty Ltd</p>	<p>Parkes Ready Mixed Concrete Pty Ltd Penrice Soda Products Permian Resources Pty Ltd Premier Resources T/A Hy-Tec Industries Pty Ltd Ransberg Pty Ltd T/a WA Premix and WA Bluemetal RNB Trading Pty Ltd Riverside Industrial Sands Pty Ltd Rocla Pty Ltd Santos Ready Mixed Concrete Pty Ltd Sloans Sands Pty Ltd Southern Pacific Sands Southern Quarries Pty Ltd Stornoway Quarrying Stornoway Hewitt Pty Ltd Sunstate Cement Ltd Techcon Resources Pty Ltd The Concrete Yard Pty Ltd T/as Queanbeyan Pre-Mix Concrete Treloar Transport Urban Resources Pty Ltd Wagner Investments Pty Ltd Western Suburbs Concrete Zanows Sand and Gravel</p>
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

<p>Astec Australia Pty Ltd BASF Construction Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd Bulkquip Pty Ltd Concrete Colour Systems Concrete Waterproofing Manufacturing Pty Ltd T/a Xypex Australia</p>	<p>Fieldwicks Crushing & Screening Grace Construction Products Sika Australia Pty Ltd WAM Australia Westrac</p>	
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ANNEXURE 2

Understanding the Heavy Construction Materials Industry

In undertaking the *EAREC's inquiry into the Strategic Cropping Land Bill 2011*, CCAA believes that the importance and uniqueness of the industry should be considered, including recognition of the following issues:

- Heavy construction materials underpin the massive building and construction industry. Ninety percent of all extractive products are used in building and construction. Without concrete and its constituent parts – sand, aggregate and cement – the construction and building industries would not function. Extractive industries are the principal suppliers of materials to public and private infrastructure projects.
- Extractive resources are finite, site specific and limited in occurrence by geological conditions.
- Extractive resources are high volume low cost materials. Extractive industry operations must be located close to the communities that use them if they are to be economically viable and not impose too great an environmental and social cost. In addition, the extractive industries involve minimal value added processing of raw materials.
- The Extractive Industry carries out progressive vegetation clearing in line with sequenced extraction - not broad scale clearing. Progressive rehabilitation is undertaken where operationally feasible. However, with hard rock sites particularly, there is often a substantial period of time before some active areas are available for rehabilitation. The extractive industry requires flexibility in respect of end land use which could be more than 50 years in the future.
- Extractive Industries use significant quantities of recycled stormwater for onsite management and operational requirements which minimises stormwater discharge from sites. Quarry developments typically involve the establishment of large stormwater detention and quality improvement devices such as sumps, water storage facilities, and natural wetlands (bio-retention basins).
- Extractive industry operators are long term players with many extractive resource areas in Queensland having lives in excess of 50 years.
- Existing extractive resources sites contain substantial reserves, which, over a long period of time, the industry has identified, investigated, secured and, in a majority of cases, have obtained the necessary planning approvals.
- The State Government has acknowledged the need to support the viability of the extractive industry by providing unique legislative provisions including the *State Planning Policy for Protection of Extractive Resources*, and *South East Queensland Koala Protection State Planning Regulatory Provisions 2010*.
- It is estimated that the total land area of Key Resource Areas in South East Queensland is less than 4,000 ha (< 0.25%) of the total area of South East Queensland. In addition, the use of land for extractive industry is a gradual process which involves quarrying only part of the land at any given point and progressively expands to the balance of the relevant land.