

Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

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Submitted by: Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA)
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7 March 2023

Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Q 4000
Via email: HEC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: Waste Reduction and Recycling and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Cement, Concrete and Aggregates Australia (CCA) is the peak industry body representing the \$15 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. We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Waste Reduction and Recycling and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (*the Bill*).

About the heavy construction materials industry – waste recovery

Compared to other industries, the cement, concrete and extractive industries are not significant waste generators. However, the industry is making a strong effort to reduce waste and increase waste material usage.

This is evident through the manufacturing and production processes for cement, concrete and aggregates which relies heavily on the re-use of waste materials. For example, the increasing use of by-products from other industries in the concrete manufacturing process such as blast furnace slag from steel production and fly ash from electricity generation; reusing waste in the production of recycled construction materials; and concrete itself which as an unmatched range of uses and combines a low environmental impact with affordability. It is durable, resilient, energy efficient and recyclable making it the most sustainable construction material over the lifecycle.

Feedback on the Bill

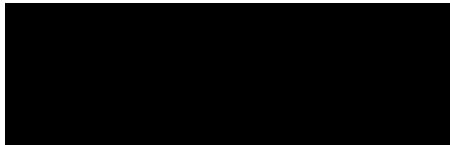
CCA is supportive of the efforts to improve waste and resource management and increase recycling in the state and taking an integrated approach to this issue. CCA supports the initiatives outlined in the Bill in particular the ability to:

- enable a thing to be prescribed by regulation to not be a waste, and move the definition of *waste* from the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (WRR Act);
- include the circular economy principle as a principle under the WRR Act; and
- change the review date for the state's Waste Strategy from 3 to 5 years.

CCAA would also like to commend the Department of Environment and Science in their willingness to work with industry on waste reform matters, and looks forward to working with the agency in implementing key initiatives to improve circular economy objectives.

CCAA thanks you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Bill and if you would like to discuss the feedback raised further, please contact Cassandra Koutouridis (CCAA Policy and Industry Relations Manager – QLD) on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Aaron Johnstone
CCAA State Director - QLD