

19 August 2022

Director - Engagement, Advisory and Projects Section
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Director,

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA

We welcome the opportunity to comment upon the Independent Review of Infrastructure Australia (IA) which considers its role as an independent adviser to the Commonwealth on nationally significant infrastructure priorities while assisting the retention of its core purpose as an advisory body to ensure that nationally significant infrastructure continues to grow Australia's economy and future building requirements.

Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia is the peak body for the heavy construction materials industry in Australia. Our members operate cement manufacturing and distribution facilities, concrete batching plants, hard rock quarries and sand and gravel extraction operations throughout the nation. CCAA membership is made up of the majority of material producers and suppliers, ranging from large global companies to SMEs and family operated businesses.

The Heavy Construction Materials Industry is vital to the nation's building and construction industries and underpins the development of Australia's physical infrastructure, generating approximately \$15 Billion in annual revenues and employs approximately 30,000 Australians directly and a further 80,000 indirectly.

CCAA supports the role of Infrastructure Australia and makes the following points with regards to its role in considering nationally significant infrastructure matters:

- CCAA believes IA serves an important role not just in assessing and prioritising projects of national importance for Commonwealth funding, but also to deliver important research and analysis that helps the Australian construction industry plan and allocate its resources (human, material and plant/equipment) to efficient deliver the project timeline given that our materials are critical to delivering Australia's infrastructure and make up a large proportion of the costs;
- CCAA believes the work itself is invaluable in supporting industry and state governments to make informed decisions on infrastructure needs and timelines. As quarry approvals can often take a good eight to ten years to come to fruition, long term forecasting of demand profiles is critical to securing and delivering infrastructure resources;
- IA serves an important role for our Industry in providing visibility of Australia's Infrastructure Pipeline through a series of publicly available and regularly updated plans and reports. Having a good visibility of the pipeline and market conditions is critical when making multi-billion-dollar investment decisions on production and resource capacity. These decisions impact the timely and efficient delivery of roads, bridges, tunnels, hospitals, schools and housing, and on the sustainable employment of the industry's workforce; and

- CCAA and member businesses routinely use IA's published Infrastructure Plan & other research and analysis to anticipate demand for our cement, concrete & aggregate materials across the near- and medium-term horizon and is also used to engage with Government and other relevant industry stakeholders.


CCAA believes that the advice received from IA is sound, informative and valuable:

- This advice provides a unique consolidated view of the National Infrastructure pipeline, while offering timing and scope detail around individual projects which helps our industry to predict demand and considering resource needs and allocations;
- We rely upon IA publications which are not available through other sources such as the Australian Infrastructure Plan, Australian Infrastructure Audit, the Infrastructure Priority List and Infrastructure Market Capacity reports;
- The *Pathway to Resilient Infrastructure* report was also of value in highlighted practical steps to deliver infrastructure that is more resilient to threats such as bushfires, droughts, floods, global pandemic and cyber-attacks, recommending a whole-of-system, all-hazards approach to resilience planning; and
- These publications and reports, when coupled with the regularly updated Australian Infrastructure Plan and Priority List, provide industry and community stakeholders with an independent, national body of research and analysis work that helps industry and state governments make informed decisions on infrastructure planning and delivery.

We call upon the Commonwealth Government to actively consider the vital role that IA has played as an independent adviser to the Commonwealth on nationally significant infrastructure priorities, its efforts to assist State Governments and our industry to assess and forecast the market, sustainably plan our resource capacity and to support effective operational outcomes.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to put together a submission on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



**KEN SLATTERY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CEMENT CONCRETE & AGGREGATES AUSTRALIA**