

## 1 August 2023

Miners Health Policy Team Resources Safety and Health Queensland GPO Box 1321 BRISBANE QLD 4001

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## SUBJECT: RSHQ Psychosocial Health Management in the Resources Sector Discussion Paper

Dear RSHQ Miners Health Policy Team

Cement, Concrete and Aggregates Australia (CCAA) 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, premixed concrete and supplementary materials. CCAA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the RHSQ Psychosocial Health Management in the Resources Sector Discussion Paper (*Discussion Paper*).

## About our industry

The Queensland extractive industry produces approximately 45 million tonnes of material per annum from hard rock, sand and river gravel quarries. The material is used for a range of local construction purposes, most particularly in concrete (made up of about 80% sand and gravel), road base (made up of about 90% sand and gravel) and a range of other applications, such as railway ballasts, landscaping, drainage, water filtration, and sporting fields.

- The vast majority of extractive materials are used *locally* (usually within a 60-80km radius) and transport of goods (usually by heavy vehicle) is expensive. Unlike the mining industry, the extractive industry is spread right across the State, particularly in areas closer to population settlement, towns and cities, and where the geology is most suitable.
- There are approximately 500 operational quarries across the state which regularly provide materials to customers, and another 500 smaller quarries that provide on an "as needs" basis.
- The industry has a diverse range of operators from publicly listed or internationally-headquartered companies with integrated cement, concrete and quarrying operations, to small, family-based operations with 1-2 employees.
- Most quarries (about 60%) have less than 15 people employed at their site. Just over 40% of quarries have 10 employees or less and almost 2/3 has 15 employees or less.
- There are minimal fly-in fly-out quarry operations in Queensland, nor residential worker camps on quarry operations. The majority of quarries have standard operating hours of Monday to Saturday, with limited 24-hour operations in Queensland.



## Response to RSHQ Discussion Paper

Safety is the number one issue for our industry and CCAA supports measures that effectively improve the health and safety of our workers. In general, CCAA members support the proposed option of clarifying obligations to manage psychosocial hazards for quarry workers, but any legislative change or guidelines must also be practical to achieve the required outcomes. CCAA members have also provided feedback that they would like more clarity around 'duty to appropriately manage the risk of psychosocial hazards', and the reporting obligations for any incidents relating to the psychosocial hazards/injuries.

Therefore, it is important that any definition of psychosocial hazard is clear and precise, while at the same time, the practical aspects of any legislative change or guidance needs to be considered.

CCAA thanks you for the opportunity to provide feedback and I can be contacted on or if you would like to further discuss the issues raised in the submission.

Yours sincerely

Cassandra Koutouridis

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