

Extractive Resources

Joint Ministerial
Statement 2025



The Victorian Government acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past and present.

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Ministers' forewords

Construction materials such as crushed rock, sand and gravel are essential raw materials for building our homes, schools, hospitals, rail network, roads and tunnels. Demand for these raw materials remains high and is forecast to reach 93 million tonnes in 2034. This increasing demand means that it has never been more important to secure resources close to where they are needed to reduce transport and construction costs, greenhouse gas emissions and the number of trucks on our roads.

This Joint Ministerial Statement renews this government's commitment to provide an environment where the regulation of the extractives sector and its interaction with the planning system is as efficient and effective as possible. It outlines a suite of priority actions that will help Victorian resources businesses thrive.

We have heard loud and clear from industry that efficient end-to-end approvals processes are the key to encourage new investment in Victoria's resources sector.

The initiatives in this statement aim to strike the right balance between support for industry and minimising potential impacts to the community and our environment. This government is committed to streamlining resources project approvals while integrating land-use into long-term planning.

Quarry approvals will continue to be rigorously assessed as part of the planning system and day to day extractive operations regulated by Resources Victoria's dedicated Earth Resources Regulator.

Efficient planning approvals and strong regulatory oversight will ensure that Victoria has access to local supplies of vital quarry resources, now and into the future.



A blue ink signature of Lily D'Ambrosio.

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy and Resources



A black ink signature of Sonya Kilkenny.

The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP

Minister for Planning





Purpose

This Joint Ministerial Statement on Extractive Resources renews this government's commitment to drive ongoing investment in the extractive resources sector. We are targeting improvements to policy, streamlining approval processes and removing barriers between portfolios that limit efficient decision making. New investments in the state's resources and expansion of current assets are crucial to ensure we continue to deliver major infrastructure projects and Victoria's Housing Statement.

Priority Actions

To unlock the full potential of Victorian quarry resources, this government is facilitating informed and responsible development, extraction and rehabilitation in collaboration with industry. To do this, a suite of cross-government priority actions will be delivered to increase investment, secure supply, and build confidence in the sector.

How are we collaborating with industry?

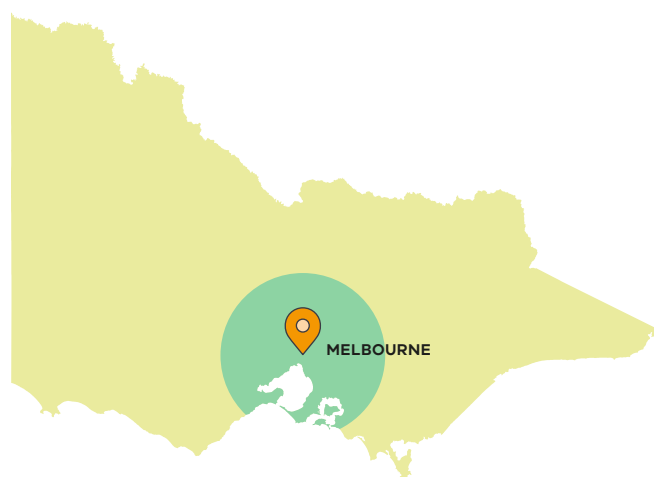
This government is committed to continuing its strong collaboration with Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) and Construction Material Processors Association (CMPA), the peak bodies that represent the quarrying industry. We will actively work together to support the industry's growth by ensuring its needs and perspectives of the industry are well-represented. This ongoing engagement will help to align government priorities and initiatives with industry's expectations, while fostering an environment for continuous improvement, sustainable development, and innovation within the sector.

1. Prioritise extractive resources

Continue the strong partnership between the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and Resources Victoria to expedite permissions for new resource supplies. This priority action will help unlock at least 250 million tonnes of new quarry material within the metropolitan Melbourne extractive resources supply area (**Figure 1**) by the end of 2027. DTP and Resources Victoria will continue to prioritise securing extractive resources for the longer term through the implementation of the *Plan for Victoria* and *Towards 2030: Resources Victoria Strategy*.

Monitor and report on demand and supply to confirm the actions identified in this statement are continuing to shift the dial, and that approvals for new quarries keep pace with demand. This includes Victoria's Statewide Reserve Inventory, which is the first of its kind in Australia. The Statewide Reserve Inventory will provide publicly available quarry materials reserve information gathered through close collaboration with industry. Regular updates and transparent reporting will help stakeholders make informed decisions to maintain a balanced supply chain.

Figure 1: The key quarry material supply zone is within 100 kilometres from Melbourne's centre





2. Facilitate timely approvals

Fund Resources Victoria Approvals Coordination (RVAC) to continue case managing Victoria's most important quarry projects. RVAC assists industry navigate complex regulatory approval processes for quarry expansions. This support helps build the resources sector's confidence to further invest in the state.

In its first year of operation, RVAC successfully facilitated the supply of 93 million tonnes of quarry materials from state significant sites, generating a Gross Production Value of \$2 billion. This achievement has not only met but exceeded the annual statewide demand for quarry materials, supporting the growth of Metropolitan Melbourne.

Funding to support the continuation of the RVAC initiative through to the end of 2027 has been allocated through the government's Economic Growth Statement.

Implement a new Support to Comply initiative that aims to improve the useability of regulatory guidance material for resources sector participants, including uplift of guidance material quality and a one-stop-shop digital interface to access the right guidance at the right time. This will result in an uplift in the quality of applications and reduce the number of requests for further information. This continuous improvement initiative better enables timely decision making and reduces opportunity costs to businesses.

The Support to Comply initiative is supported by an allocation from the Assistant Treasurer's Business Acceleration Fund.

Reduce unnecessary decision-making duplication

for extractive resources projects where approvals span multiple regulators and agencies. Multi-agency approval processes are susceptible to effort duplication and protracted decision timelines. This priority action aims to refresh existing, and establish new, memorandums of understanding between key resources sector works approval co-regulators to reduce assessment duplication and set clear and transparent performance targets to enable timely decision making.

Maximise the use of the Department of Transport and Planning's Development Facilitation Program

DTP's Development Facilitation Program has proven to be an efficient and effective pathway for fast-tracking state significant planning permit applications. The structured, facilitative approach to quarry applications, in collaboration with RVAC, will allow for prompt identification of issues and co-development of practical mitigation strategies. This partnership will continue to examine opportunities to streamline planning approvals.



3. Secure future supply

Strategic Extractive Resource Areas (SERAs) are the government's planning tool to ensure high-quality extractive resources, or quarry resources, that are close to market are secured in suitable locations for future development. This will help ensure a long-term supply of quarry resources are available to help meet forecast demand. Three new SERAs in Baw Baw, Cardina and Hume are proposed to ensure a long-term supply of high-quality quarry resources close to market (there is currently a process underway to review community input about these proposed SERAs). SERAs give communities and industry long-term certainty about where quarries are more likely to be established in the future and facilitate early conversations with communities about the development of these quarry resources.

Strengthen state planning policies to provide greater certainty about the areas most suitable for extractive industries. State planning policy in clause 14.03 of all planning schemes will be updated to ensure that the planning process for earth resources supports the establishment of extractive industries in areas such as Strategic Extractive Resource Areas and Extractive Industry Interest Areas. Updating clause 14.03 aims to improve investment attraction in SERAs and Extractive Industry Interest Areas. This action will also support the integration of resource planning with broader land use considerations, ensuring that resource development is balanced with environmental, cultural, social, and other economic factors. This holistic approach is vital to maintaining community confidence in the sector while still promoting investment and growth.

Plan for Victoria was released on 28 February 2025 and sets a statewide vision for how Victoria will grow over time. It recognises Victoria's growth will produce greater demand for quarry materials and acknowledges the role of SERAs to help secure these materials close to where they are needed.

4. Build social license

Maintain rigorous assessment standards so that potential environmental and community impacts of a proposed development are managed appropriately. This includes introduction of set-times for approvals processes to reduce delays and uncertainty for businesses. In addition to timeliness of approvals, investing in improvements to technical reference groups to ensure the best advice is given to businesses and government agencies during the preparation of applications and supporting technical documentation.

Implement a new Duty Model that increases industry accountability while removing regulatory burden. This change will be implemented in 2027 as part of the major overhaul of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*. These reforms will replace a complex and outdated work approvals framework, with a contemporary and transparent regulatory system based on a statutory duty for managing risk. The government is committed to removing unnecessary red tape that slows down approvals processes and increases the cost of doing business in Victoria.



Measures of Success

The success of this Statement will be measured against four key dimensions:

New investment

Uplift of private new capital expenditure in Victoria's resources sector.

More investment in quarry projects will result in lowering the cost of construction materials, which will make infrastructure, housing, and other development projects more affordable across Victoria.

Timely decisions

Reduction of end-to-end approval times for new and expanding resources development projects by at least 15% – with respect to long-term averages.

Faster decision making for resources development projects will help to meet demand conditions, ensuring viability of the projects, investor confidence, and boost benefits for communities.

Improved user experience

The experience of resources sector proponents regarding regulatory processes and administrators is improved through the alignment of priorities, purpose and requirements across multiple government policy areas.

Smooth and predictable regulatory processes can foster stronger corporate citizenship and support stronger relationships with community, stakeholders and regulators.

Increased community support

The community acceptance of quarrying activities is uplifted. This will be achieved by an increased awareness of the important role the sector plays in job creation, boosting infrastructure and services, and support for Traditional Owner Self-Determination.

Success against this dimension will be measured by a reduction in quarry-related planning permission objections.

Progress monitoring

Open and transparent progress monitoring will ensure the commitments made in this Statement are delivered.

Resources Victoria will publish a report on its website detailing progress against each priority action and associated outcomes. These will start mid-2025 and continue until all priority actions are completed.

Staying informed about emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in the resources sector, along with effective planning across Government, is crucial to ensuring the sector's continued viability and growth in Victoria. Resources Victoria and DTP will continue to engage with industry, community, and Traditional Owners to identify and address future needs and priorities.

