



Hon Jaala Pulford MP

Minister for Employment  
Minister for Innovation, Medical Research  
and the Digital Economy  
Minister for Resources  
Minister for Small Business

GPO Box 4509  
Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia  
Telephone: +61 3 839 26006  
DX 210477

## **Minister Statement, Tuesday 24 May 2022 Minister for Resources**

It is my pleasure to inform the house about how this Government is supporting the extractives industry to supply Victorian businesses and families with affordable sand, gravel and hard rock needed for construction.

Victoria's population is set to reach 10 million before 2050, requiring 1.6 million new homes and an unprecedented amount of new infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and investment in a well-connected transport network.

Quarry operators - big and small - play an absolutely vital role in ensuring affordable and accessible material is available close to where it is needed.

The best lever Government has to address the rising cost of building materials is to support the expansion of supply. I'm proud to inform the house that the Andrews Labor Government is committed to funding and delivering regulatory reform for a responsible industry to keep the cost of construction down for Victorians. This includes \$2million in the 2022-23 Budget will go towards the reform of regulatory reform for Minerals Resources.

Excitedly, some reform is already underway. The Earth Resources Regulator from my department being one of the first regulators in the State to have participated in the Better Approvals for Regulators program. The Program will deliver immediate work plan assessment improvements for quarry operators.

The Program aims to create a more efficient regulatory process and improve transparency for industry and community. This will get quarry materials to market in a more efficient manner whilst maintaining stringent environmental and safety standards.

Last week, I met with key representatives from the Cement, Concrete and Aggregates Australia to discuss the outcomes of the Program and the important role of the extractives sector in keeping a growing Victoria affordable for communities.

I'd like to take this opportunity to once again thank all quarry operators for their continued support of the Victorian construction industry.