

Submission from the Limestone Association of Australia

* Imposition of a gold royalty is a disincentive to encouraging exploration and project development and is counterproductive to the Victorian Government's published intention to encourage development of mineral resources.

* The non - imposition of a royalty provides some offset to the relatively high cost of the approvals process in Victoria. Mineral prospects are more likely to be closer to settlement than in most other Australian jurisdictions and hence a high level of public scrutiny and involvement the attends the process.

*This hastily contrived scheme is effectively a means of requiring a specific sector of industry to help pay for forfeiting a project (the East-West link) that would have greatly increased productivity across the Victorian and national economy; evidence: a morning journey of 4km from Yarra Bend to Parkville can typically take half an hour or more in the lead up to peak hour.

* Lime is an important input to gold processing operations along with many other inputs whose suppliers can be adversely affected by the imposition of the royalty.

*When non-budgeted for government charges are imposed, it can affect a business' ability to contribute to community involvement which can improve community understanding and co-operation during the life of mining and quarrying projects.