



BARRO GROUP

BARRO GROUP PTY LIMITED



#### Planning Implementation

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

PO Box 500

East Melbourne

Victoria 3002

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

#### **SUBJECT: STRATEGIC EXTRACTIVE RESOURCE AREAS**

I write to you in strong support of the proposed Strategic Extractive Resource Areas that will safeguard the critical natural resource of sand and stone that is needed supply affordable infrastructure and support Victoria's Big Build.

Barro Group, family owned and operated since 1946, is the leading independent supplier and distributor of premixed concrete, quarry products and a range of associated products in Victoria.

The Barro Group supports:

- The definition of a Strategic Extractive Resource Area (SERA) and implementing them as a State Resource Overlay (SRO) in the local planning scheme with the support of a Special Use Zone (SUZ) over the Work Authority area
- SERAs that provide for the protection of a future resource from sterilisation from competing land use
- SERAs that provide for the protection of existing extractive industry from competing land uses
- SERAs that provide for streamlined development approvals for operations within SERAs
- Application of the Special Use Zone over existing and proposed Work Authorities that provides for work plan variations NOT requiring additional planning permit approvals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted Victoria's economy. The construction sector, supported by an efficient heavy construction materials supply chain, provides the engine for Victoria's economic recovery. Cement, concrete, stone and sand are the critical materials that enable Victoria's construction industry, employing 340,000 workers and contributing 45% of Victoria's taxation revenue base.

To ensure materials are affordable and accessible now and into the future, it is essential that high quality sand and stone resources in proximity to markets remain available for extraction.

Strategic Extractive Resource Areas will help to enable these resources that are proximal to market, supporting an efficient heavy construction materials supply chain, helping to rebuild Victoria and create jobs.

Regards,

