

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Climate Action
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for the State Electricity Commission



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ROCK SOLID STEPS TO DELIVER RECORD QUARRY PRODUCTION

The Andrews Labor Government has put the building blocks in place to ensure Victoria can deliver affordable raw materials for new housing, schools, hospitals, transport infrastructure, and critical minerals for the renewable energy transition.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio today visited Oaklands Junction, one of the highest production quarries in the state. Quarry operator Holcim has benefitted from the Labor Government's Resources Victoria Approvals Coordination trial to support site expansions and operating extensions across the state.

The Labor Government has established *Resources Victoria* – which will deliver the reforms we need to ensure the sustainable and responsible growth of our resources industry and ensuring greater transparency and clearer input for all into decision making and plan for growth.

The new Resources Victoria Approvals Coordination role will help to significantly reduce approval times for quarry applications, turbocharging supply of raw materials for construction projects.

During its pilot phase, the approvals coordinator helped unlock more than 40 million tonnes of extra quarry material, enough to fill the MCG seventeen times. The gross value of production of these additional resources is estimated to be more than \$900 million.

Holcim Warrnambool was assisted to expand its hard rock production area and the group's quarry at Werribee was able to increase output to provide vital flood recovery materials through an expansion of operating hours.

Holcim's Oaklands Junction quarry supplies hard rock to a wide range of infrastructure projects including Level Crossing Removal, the West Gate Tunnel Project and runway upgrades at Melbourne Airport.

In 2021-22, Victoria achieved record state-wide quarry production, reaching more than 70 million tonnes. This new Resources Victoria Coordinator will ensure the affordable supply of quarry-based construction material will continue to meet demand for new housing and infrastructure.

Last week a new *Minerals Resources (Sustainable Development) Bill* passed the lower house of Parliament which will ensure improvements to resources regulation and works approvals – ensuring Victoria strikes the right balance between supporting the resources industry to grow and protecting the environment and local communities.

The *Victorian Budget 2023/24* invested \$23.2 million to deliver these reforms and streamlined approvals, as well as better quarry rehabilitation.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio

"We're ensuring Victoria has the materials it needs to meet the demand for new affordable housing and the major infrastructure projects our government is delivering."

"Our new regulations and approvals that will help deliver more rock, sand and gravel, while ensuring the right safeguards are in place to protect the environment and communities."

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