

1 June 2023

Ms Michelle Baxter  
Chief Executive Officer  
Safe Work Australia



[WESConsult@swa.gov.au](mailto:WESConsult@swa.gov.au)

Dear Ms Baxter

#### **PROPOSED WORKPLACE EXPOSURE STANDARD FOR DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Safe Work Australia's public consultation on the proposed Workplace Exposure Standard (WES) for Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) component of diesel engine emissions (DEE).

Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) is the peak industry body for cement manufacturers, concrete suppliers and extractive operators throughout Australia. Collectively known as the heavy construction materials industry, CCAA members operate cement manufacturing and distribution facilities, concrete batching plants, hard rock quarries and sand and gravel extraction operations throughout the nation to meet Australia's building and construction needs. These businesses are made up of the majority of material producers and suppliers ranging from large global companies to SMEs and family operated businesses.

Heavy construction materials are vital to delivering the infrastructure required to support Australia's built economy which underpins the development of our nation's physical infrastructure, generating approximately \$15 Billion in annual revenue and employing 30,000 Australians directly and a further 80,000 indirectly.

CCAA notes that the purpose of the review was to gather feedback and evidence to assist Safe Work Members to consider the proposal, that a WES for DPM be added to the model Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations, be recommended to WHS Ministers. We also note that while WHS Ministers have agreed that DEE should be considered for inclusion on the WES list, we believe that Safe Work Australia's initial review findings of insufficient data to recommend a suitable Time Weighted Average (TWA) should also be taken into consideration.

We understand that following the engagement of SLR Consulting Australia to review potential options, Safe Work Australia are proposing a WES, based on an eight-hour TWA of 15 micrograms per cubic metre (15 ug/m3 or 0.015 mg/m3) for DPM. Current limits for DPM are typically found for mines in Australian States of 0.1 mg/m3 which signals a massive adjustment for industry to maintain compliance with the new standard.

Further, we are not aware of any work or consultation being undertaken by Safe Work Australia or elsewhere to thoroughly determine the impacts upon industry for such a significant change. The heavy construction materials sector continues to maintain a strong track record in protecting its workers from the risk of dust disease and while we understand the health benefits for the cut to the WES, we **strongly encourage** Safe Work Australia to undertake a thorough Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) that would adequately serve to understand the full implications of the proposal.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment upon Safe Work Australia's public consultation on the proposed Workplace Exposure Standard (WES) for Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) component of diesel engine emissions (DEE).

CCAA would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission further and we can be contacted at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**KEN SLATTERY**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**CEMENT CONCRETE & AGGREGATES AUSTRALIA**