

**Victorian  
Limestone  
Producers  
Association Inc.**

ABN 29697840827

PO Box 6162  
Vermont South  
Victoria 3133

## **Submission to Victorian Parliament Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee**

### **Inquiry into Greenfields Mineral Exploration and Project Development in Victoria**

The Victorian Limestone Producers Association represents the interests of the majority of companies mining and quarrying limestone in Victoria and into South Australia. Limestone in its various processed forms is a very important input to the agricultural sector, the civil construction sector (particularly road construction and maintenance), building sector and general manufacturing.

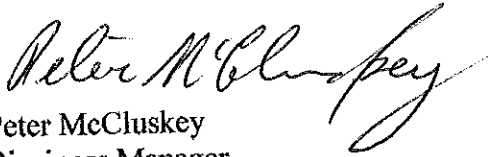
Limestone as agricultural lime is a natural product applied to cropping and pasture soils to combat extensively occurring acidic soils in Victoria and other parts of Australia. An earlier Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into acidic soils highlighted the role of limestone in combating the acidic soil problem.

VLPA would like to submit the following in relation to the above Inquiry:

- Exploration is the R&D of the minerals industry and new deposits need to be regularly explored to ensure the domestic supply chain can be maintained.
- Where extractive mineral deposits such as limestone occur at accessible points to markets, those deposits need to be able to be developed or workings extended to ensure supplies are affordable and available to their markets.
- Where pressures of urbanisation occur near known limestone deposits, planning proposals for non minerals urban related developments should be referred to Department of Primary Industries minerals regulation branch under Section 55 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to ensure those deposits are technically assessed and preserved with the opportunity for development when required.
- The lengthy time period required for obtaining approvals in Victoria is costly disincentive to develop new deposits especially where minerals concerned are relatively low value at the quarry gate such as limestone, but nonetheless a vital component of the supply chain across agriculture, construction and manufacturing.
- The burgeoning requirements for community consultation associated with minerals development and ongoing operations is often out of proportion with the scale of operations and enters the realm of "want to know" rather than

- Minerals exploration provides valuable catalysts to local economies even if proposals do not go ahead and hence exploration needs to be encouraged.
- The proposed Retention Licences under upcoming regulations are seen as a valuable instrument to help companies plan and sequence their developments without disruptions to market supply.

Yours sincerely,



Peter McCluskey  
Business Manager  
Victorian Limestone Producers Association

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