

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Minister for Resources
Witness:	Mr Simon Phemister, Secretary, Department Jobs, Precincts and Regions Mr John Krbaleski, Head Resources Mr Anthony Hurst, Executive Director, Earth Resources Regulation
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan MP
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Relevant text:

Mr RIORDAN: Okay. So with the known shortage, have you had inquiries to your department from the sector talking about the complete lack of supply going forward for class I and class II rock, which of course is essential for construction of multistorey apartment buildings and tunnels and other things?

Answer:

Industry has not raised the issue with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

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Mr RIORDAN: No, but specifically that class of rock. So what measures are you putting in place to make that rock available for the various programs?

Ms SYMES: We might take it on notice in terms of the grade.

Answer:

Industry is responsible for supplying the right material to meet market specifications.

The classification of the class of rock is commercially sensitive, and licence holders are not required to disclose this information to Earth Resources Regulation.

This government is committed to making it easier for quarry operators to get their product to market, small quarry operators no longer need to go through a work authority process, they can deal directly with their local council to seek planning approvals.

We have streamlined processes that are making it easier for industry to access and develop the construction materials needed.

Time and cost savings have been delivered to industry with the introduction of a streamlined assessment pathway for changes to sites that do not significantly increase risk.

The changes enable operators to expand their operations with proportionate regulatory oversight.

Faster assessments enable materials from existing quarries to get to market sooner. The sooner and easier the materials make it out of the ground, the quicker and cheaper it is to spend on infrastructure programs across the State.

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Relevant text:

Mr RIORDAN: And how many of those have been approved in the last three years? Could you provide that on notice?

Mr HURST: I can actually get that information on notice. I can tell you that over the last four years there have been 47 new quarries granted approval.

Answer:

Approvals were granted for 32 Work Authorities (quarries) statewide over the last three years (1 July 2016 to 21 June 2019).

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Mr RIORDAN: And how many of those have been approved in the last three years? Could you provide that on notice?

Mr HURST: I can actually get that information on notice. I can tell you that over the last four years there have been 47 new quarries granted approval.

Mr RIORDAN: So what we are wanting to know is how many have started.

Mr HURST: We can get that on notice.

Answer:

Fourteen of the 32 approved Work Authorities have submitted production returns indicating that they have started production.

The nine quarries that were granted Work Authorities during the 2018-19 financial year are due to submit their first production returns to Earth Resources Regulation after 30 June 2019.

The start of production at an approved quarry is a commercial decision for the operator, rather than a regulatory requirement.