

Media release

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Concrete Ideally Suited for New Zealand Cycleway Project

The concrete sector has congratulated the Government's announcement to allocate \$50 million over three years for the New Zealand Cycleway Project.

"The development of a series of *Great Rides* that will connect across the country will offer a brilliant recreational experience for New Zealanders and international tourists," says Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ) Chief Executive, Rob Gaimster.

"If the cycle network is to achieve its various economic, social and environmental objectives it will need to make extensive use of the long-term maintenance and user benefits of concrete.

"Not only is a network of cycleways paved with concrete the most appropriate option for the range of locations, conditions and bicycle types popular in New Zealand, concrete will require no maintenance over a long period," says Mr Gaimster.

"Furthermore, as a locally produced material, with both cement and aggregate sourced from New Zealand, concrete is directly contributing to job creation", adds Mr Gaimster.

The New Zealand concrete industry retains sufficient expertise, capacity and skills to accommodate the logistical challenges such a multiple, large-scale and geographically diverse project would pose.

"Ready mixed concrete companies around the country are able to produce the appropriate concrete mix for any application, while in partnership with master concrete placers, the supply and installation process can be comfortably accommodated," said Mr Gaimster.

"Using concrete to construct a New Zealand cycleway will enable the development of a competitive tourism experience with the most suitable and durable riding surface, as well create employment."

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About the Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ)

The Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ) is the recognised centre of excellence for cement and concrete technology, including promotion of the sector, training of industry members and influencers, and advocating best practice in the use of cement and concrete in New Zealand.

Representing in excess of 300 corporate and individual members throughout New Zealand, CCANZ advocates for best practice in the use of cement and concrete in the New Zealand marketplace by offering quality training and advice to the industry and its members.

The cement and concrete sector annually produces 1.5 million tonnes of cement in New Zealand, which equates to around 3.75 million cubic metres of concrete for new residential, non-residential and commercial construction.

In total, the direct, indirect and induced economic impact of the cement and concrete sector resulted in close to \$7.5 billion of output across the economy in the year to March 2006. This activity supported more than 24,000 jobs and created a value add of about \$2.8 billion – 2 percent of New Zealand's GDP in 2006.

As an industry knowledge organisation, CCANZ is focusing attention on marketing technical information in a way that helps industry decision makers get the most out of concrete.

Those who seek CCANZ's services include architects, designers, engineers and building contractors.

Concrete is the building material of the future, offering comfort, style and strength