

**Media release**  
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## **Concrete Sector Welcomes New Government Infrastructure Package**

The Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ) Chief Executive, Rob Gaimster, has praised the Government's fast-tracking of \$500 million worth of infrastructure projects announced today.

"The education, roading and state housing initiatives will assist in alleviating concerns over job security by providing work within the concrete sector, and the construction industry in general, as well as within local communities," says Mr Gaimster.

"I applaud the Government for this series of initiatives. While the construction industry is clearly hurting in the current economic climate, this immediate commitment to infrastructure investment will provide much-needed stimulus to New Zealand's struggling economy, assisting us to move into a period of growth," says Mr Gaimster.

He says the emphasis on implementing projects without delay, along with their nationwide focus is very pleasing.

"The Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand looks forward to the increased construction funding over the next three to four years and contributing to the Government's infrastructure development strategies and investment plans," says Mr Gaimster.

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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.