



15 January 2020

Submission – Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group

Louisa Watson

ACCC

Level 17

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Melbourne Vic 3000

Dear Louisa

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a submission for the AESAG Group.

Personally we cannot see the point in supporting this group AESAG. We now have a legal code that we are required to adhere to via Workplace Health and Safety Qld. As a company we have had numerous air monitoring, health testing (2 years) and Occupational Hygiene Survey Reports conducted.

We are already up to speed on what the silica content of the products that we buy are and adhere to the manufactures recommendations as well as the Strict Code, and we always have.

We cannot see any reason why we will be forced to be accredited by these stone companies before purchasing their product or be refused services. Furthermore this is not a free service – we will be required to “join” and pay for the accreditation service. This is an unnecessary expense at a time when we are already experiencing ongoing costs to ensure the safety of all of our workers.

This application has come about because their previous efforts to get the collective of thousands of their clients to join have failed. The suppliers of manufactured stone have no legal enforcement of how their product is fabricated once it leaves their premises nor do they care to. This accreditation seems fruitless. Our practices are enforced by the Queensland Government.

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We along with all of the stone manufacturing companies adhere to the new Code of Practice and see no reason why we should be forced to comply with suppliers of this product or alternatively face "bans".

So far as a company we have spent in excess of \$350 000.000 to 100% ensure that we are complying with recommendations and the Code. In doing this we have ensured the safety and well-being of our staff, which is 100% effective. We feel there is no point for this advisory committee. Furthermore, we, the Directors have been Stonemasons for a combined 60 + years and all of our staff ranging from 1 to 40 years in the industry have been tested and not one of them have been found to have been afflicted with silicosis. So we must be doing something right ourselves without the assistance of money grabbing stone suppliers.

Kind Regards

Ricky Woolley

Shayne Camilleri

Directors

