

**Submission  
No 16**

## **INQUIRY INTO 2019 REVIEW OF THE DUST DISEASES SCHEME**

**Organisation:** Stone Ambassador Australia Pty Ltd

**Date Received:** 9 December 2019

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9th December 2019

The Hon. Wes Fang MLC, Chair  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: [law@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:law@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Fang,

**Re: 2019 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme – Manufactured Stone Industry**

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We refer to the above inquiry. We provide this by way of our submission to the inquiry.

### **Background**

Engineered quartz stone surfaces are safe products to have installed in the home and, to date, have been installed in the homes of millions of people world-wide, favoured for their resilience and low-maintenance requirements. Any hazard, in relation to this product, emanates from the fabrication process and thus can be minimised - if not eliminated - with safe work practices.

Stone Ambassador is an importer and supplier of reconstituted/engineered quartz stone products, with a head office based in Victoria. We also have offices in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, and distribute Australia-wide.

We are a member of the Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group (the "AESAG").

### **The 2019 Review**

We attended the hearing of the Standing Committee of 15 November 2019.

We have read the transcript of the hearing of the Standing Committee and also the submission to the Committee by AESAG dated 22 October 2019.

### **Stone Ambassador's Position**

As members of the AESAG, we fully endorse the position as it has been put to the Committee through the above members and in the written submission dated 22 October 2019.

We endorse industry self-regulation that would see:

- Fabricators being subject to a formal registration, audit and accreditation process;
- Adoption of the AESAG accreditation program through legislation so that fabricators being "Accredited" is a legal requirement;
- The accreditation and audit processes implemented through independent third parties such as 'Greencap';
- Compulsory air quality monitoring as part of the accreditation process;
- Legislated regulations which prescribe a safe level of exposure to dust from the fabrication of engineered stone of initially 0.1 milligrams (over an 8-hour period), in accordance with current industry standards, and that this limit apply for a transitional period to allow for workplaces to make appropriate changes, thereafter falling to 0.05 milligrams and down to 0.02 ultimately, and that the transitional period should be up to 3 years;
- Importers and suppliers of engineered stone products having authority (supported by appropriate government rulings) to refuse to supply fabricators who do not hold the proper accreditation;
- Mandatory testing of all workers exposed to RCS for silicosis and related illnesses (funded by government);
- A legislated ban on dry cutting/polishing/forming, implemented Australia-wide.

We welcome any enquiries you may have in relation to the above and invite you to contact Mr Gary Isherwood at our Melbourne office on

Yours sincerely,



Gary Isherwood  
General Manager Stone Ambassador.