



ASPASA

Aggregate & Sand Producers
Association of Southern Africa

About the Aggregate and Sand Association

While sourcing materials for buildings and roads would have been one of the vital first missions for early settlers, it was ± 20 years ago the companies involved in extracting and supplying gravel and allied materials formed the Aggregate and Sand Producers Association (ASPASA). It is the national body representing the companies involved in South Africa's quarrying industry that produces the majority tonnes of aggregate and allied raw materials such as limestone.

ASPASA was formed in response to the need for an industry group that could represent aggregate suppliers on a range of issues, as well as liaise with specifiers and end users of materials.

ASPASA's committees are well respected throughout the contracting industry and include committee members from the wider industry representing robust cooperation and alliance.

Training, education, planning for new and the rehabilitation of old quarries and associated **environmental** and sustainability issues are key concerns of ASPASA.

Rock is the foundation for us all, it is the base product for our everyday lives for housing, schools drains roads and motorways, and all major and minor construction like bridges, hospitals and city buildings. But though aggregate is fundamental to South Africa's infrastructure, it is an industry that has to fight for its right to produce raw materials and one of ASPASA's major concerns is to provide an ongoing supply of raw materials at the lowest price possible – and that means close to the end work site.

Locally sourced aggregate is the most cost-effective. While aggregates are low value relative to weight, increasing the distance over which they are transported from quarry to construction site adds significant costs.

There is no shortage of aggregate anywhere. But unfortunately the regulator allows just too many operation's to take place without following the law. The ASPASA objective is for government, councils and their communities to have a requirement in every town plan that designates areas for aggregate production.

South Africans, and their ambitions for South Africa, need aggregate – lots of it – but they think quarries will bring aggravation, especially in urban or semi-urban areas.

Unfortunately, this is a view that most local authorities fail to challenge, even though quarries are not the noisy and dirty neighbours that many people perceive. Most quarries carefully monitor the quality of their water and air. The quarry industry faces some of the most stringent environmental control regimes of any industry. It recognises and celebrates excellence in environmental performance and is constantly seeking improvements.

ASPASA has worked hard on this issue ensuring a healthy aggregate industry in South Africa.