

About Interact

Interact - Policy and Industry Solutions Pty Ltd supports greater collaboration between critical industry sectors and government.

This includes working with peak organisations on public policy and representation, and with government and other bodies in industry engagement and key supply chains.

Experience in construction materials sector

Aaron Johnstone (Founder and Director of Interact) has a deep body of experience with the Australian cement, concrete and aggregates sector, and with navigating policy and other challenges with government and senior company leaders.



From 2010 to 2023, Aaron was Queensland State Director for Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia (CCAA) - <https://www.ccaa.com.au>, the sector's peak industry body. Aaron is also a proud member of the Institute of Quarrying Australia (IQA).

As part of its national executive team at CCAA, Aaron was responsible for the following:

- Leading the CCAA's QLD branch and its team of staff.
- Fostering relations with a variety of industry stakeholders, politicians and senior government decision-makers, engineers and builders, and senior company representatives.
- Advancing national and state policy agendas - developing public policy submissions and

advocacy in areas such as heavy vehicle policy, health and safety, natural resource management, mines safety, transport, environmental regulation, planning, and road authority technical specifications. Brokering industry policy positions with a diverse group of companies.

- Managing a variety of engagement activities for more than 500 representatives from 90 companies, including events, member subcommittees, training courses, regular newsletters and other member engagement activities.
- Leading several national initiatives, including national policy development positions for heavy vehicles, diversity and inclusion, the extractive industry and the biennial national construction materials industry conferences, attended by over 700 delegates.
- Representing CCAA and its members in a range of industry and government forums.
- Making media and public comment on behalf of the association in Queensland and contributing to broader discussions on public policy affecting the construction materials industry

Key Achievements

Together with members and team members, Aaron achieved the following at CCAA:

- Successfully advocated for reforms saving the sector more than \$100m since 2010.
- Managed an annual innovation awards program in environment, health and safety and community leadership initiatives, attracting almost 300 nominations over 12 years. The awards are announced at the annual gala industry dinner attended by 240 guests per year.
- Developed a series of high-level industry position statements articulating the

industry's goals and visions in critical areas – including resource protection and planning, environmental management and biodiversity, economic policy, diversity and inclusion and transport and freight policy. More than 200 policy submissions by the Queensland CCAA team since 2010 on various policy matters.

- Oversaw the management of member meetings and industry events attended by more than 1000 attendees in across 25 events (per annum), including the annual Quarrying and Mining Health and Safety Seminar (joint with the Queensland Government) that regularly attracts more than 300 attendees) and initiated the joint Construction Materials Environmental Management Conference with the State Government.
- Established high-level strategic alliance agreements between key government departments and the association, including regular forums and engagement events with senior officers.



- Managing education and training policy reform in various national and state government bodies in QLD and Victoria
- Devising communication strategies for Westminster City Council in central London on transport and urban development.
- Providing strategic political and policy advice as a Ministerial Adviser for the Hon Anna Bligh MP in her time in the Beattie State Government Cabinet.

Between 2007 and 2010, Aaron was Manager, Policy and Public Affairs with the Australian Industry Group (Ai Group). Key responsibilities included:

- Developing and advancing industry positions and policy.
- Managing joint industry-government research projects in manufacturing, resource access and protection.
- Undertaking industry surveys and presenting results to senior government and industry representatives.

Aaron has a Bachelor of Arts in Government and History (University of QLD) and an Executive Master of Public Administration (University of Melbourne/ANZSOG).



Other industry and government experience

Aaron began his career in Canberra as a Graduate in the Australian Government in 1995, joining the public service from an eager desire to make an impact.

His public sector experience in Australia and the UK have included a variety of roles, such as:

To find out how *Interact* can support you, call Aaron on +61 423 481 951 or aaron.johnstone@interactpolicy.com