



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

vicbluestone.com.au

ENDURING QUALITY BESPOKE VICTORIAN BLUESTONE

As an Australian, family-owned business established in 1970, Victorian Bluestone Quarries (VBQ) are experts in the craft of stonemasonry. Using locally sourced, processed, and custom-cut bluestone, VBQ strives to solve diverse design challenges with practical solutions, creating aesthetically beautiful landmarks that stand the test of time.

Throughout their history, VBQ has developed extensive expertise working across a variety of sectors and diverse project types. This experience has enabled VBQ to fulfil the needs of design and built environment professionals, and home builders and renovators, allowing them to make well informed project material decisions through building an understanding of the art of stonemasonry.

VBQ's expertise, skill and technical proficiency allows their clients to achieve the best outcomes by using bluestone in civil, commercial and residential construction.

VBQ is committed to building a stronger understanding of Victorian bluestone's unique attributes that make it the classic choice to enhance a project, place, or space for the community.

OUR STORY

Founded in 1970, VBQ has perfected the craft of stonemasonry from over 50 years of successful operations.

As a second-generation family-owned business VBQ is now managed by the four Skliros siblings who are all known for friendly, reliable, and premium stonemasonry services.

Operating an established quarry and state-of-the-art stone manufacturing facility in north-west Melbourne, VBQ applies an environmentally conscious mindset to its supply chain, processing, and operations, making them the ideal partner for your next project.



"Working with VBQ for our bluestone needs is effortless as we can trust that the product will be spot on in terms of quality and timing. Having been in the business for so long, the team know exactly what they are doing and always deliver what they promise every time."
Damian Frazzetto, Evergreen Civil Pty Ltd

"Over 50 years, our family has refined the craft of stonemasonry and we are proud to offer clients premium, bespoke bluestone products. We aim to empower design, engineering and construction professionals to make informed design decisions by celebrating the attributes of local bluestone products that elevate any project to have a more prestigious status."
Peter Skliros, Managing Director

1964

Anthony migrates to Melbourne from a Greek Island called Lefkada. He worked numerous jobs to support himself and his family in Greece. One of these is at Standard Quarries in Footscray, where they processed granites and bluestone which supplied landmarks such as the NVG and Shrine of Remembrance.

1970

Anthony and his wife, Voula, established Melbourne's first Greek speaking Stonemasonry, to cater to the migrant community. Anthony & Preston Memorials focused on monumental and building masonry using only natural Australian stone. By 1972, manufacturing had moved from the garage workshop to a new factory and office in Coburg.

1978

Anthony took on Work Authorities for other local granite and bluestone quarries. The family established Kessel Hill Pty Ltd to manage quarry holdings in Victoria and Australia's north, allowing stone processing for other stonemasons. The core business remained monumental stonemasonry but expanded to residential/ commercial under the name A.P.V.S. Marble & Granite.

1999

This year marked the "official" birth of VBQ with the building of a new stone processing facility in Lara, south west of Melbourne, on one of our Work Authority sites. The facility focused on processing locally sourced Victorian bluestone and cemented our experience in the Australian stone industry.

2000

This year saw VBQ appointed as official suppliers to the City of Melbourne which significantly increased our standing in the civil market. We also supplied our first export project – the first of many.

2013

Steady business growth over the intervening years led to the relocation of VBQ to a 25,000m² site in Brooklyn, which enabled us to unite our processing and warehousing. These operations had previously been divided between Lara and Coburg.

2021

VBQ refreshes its position in the market with a new website and logo. Peter, Sophie, Tina and Harri are focused on developing the business into the future and creating new relationships and opportunities.

DIVERSE EXPERTISE

Authentically Victorian – Victoria bluestone is a government-mandated product, woven into the fabric of the state’s public spaces and landmarks.

With one of the most advanced stone facilities in Australia, VBQ offers flexible, bespoke manufacturing of stunning bluestone products for a diverse range of civil infrastructure, residential and community projects.



TRANSPORT

Spanning tram superstops, train stations and level crossings, to roads and bike lanes, VBQ has supplied customised bluestone to many significant transport projects.



RETAIL

From Aesop concept store fit-outs to community retail hubs such as Mentone Renaissance and Chadstone Shopping Centre, VBQ’s premium and beautiful products help ensure retail settings stand out.



GOVERNMENT

VBQ has worked with local, state, and federal government in Australia and abroad to deliver impressive, tailor-made design solutions for City of Melbourne, City of Greater Geelong, City of Ballarat and recently Bendigo Hospital in Victoria.



COMMUNITY SPACES

VBQ’s beautiful bluestone is embedded in many celebrated community developments from Melbourne’s Hamer Hall and Philip Island’s Penguin Parade to Sydney’s Darling Quarter.



EDUCATION

VBQ has worked on projects for many prestigious education institutions including RMIT, University of Melbourne, Southern Cross University, Melbourne Grammar School, Mazenod College, and more.



RESIDENTIAL

VBQ has worked with many architects, designers, and homeowners to provide custom solutions where Victorian bluestone makes the ideal material for residential landscaping and renovation projects.

TAILORED SOLUTIONS

Our customers count on our friendly and reliable service to source, custom-make and deliver Victorian bluestone, a premium material that elevates projects to landmark status.

Embodying prestige, bluestone has a distinctive tone, texture, and beauty. Combined with its durability, rust-resistance and non-slip qualities, bluestone is suitable for many settings and compliant to wide-ranging safety requirements.



PAVING & TILES

Our bluestone pavers and tiles can be made in a wide range of shapes, sizes and finishes including diamond sawn, sand blasted, grit blasted, honed, bush hammered and shot blasted.



STEPS, TREADS & RISERS

Safe and stylish, we can custom-create bluestone steps in any size and finish.



CRAZY PAVING

Crazy pavers are ideal for alfresco paving, garden paths, stone wall cladding, indoor tiling, and as a feature in civic spaces.



COBBLESTONES

Often used in driveways, paving, feature walls and roads, bluestone cobblestones can be cut in a diverse range of sizes and finishes.



GUTTERSTONE & KERBING

Seen all around Australia, bluestone for kerbing and gutterstones can be cut in both straight and radial lengths.



LANDSCAPING, POOL COPING & EDGING

Enhance landscaping projects and pools with our beautiful bluestone suitable for retainer walls, decking, coping, and edging.



WALL CLADDING

For a striking, natural look, stone wall cladding is ideal for indoor and outdoor applications.




CREATIVE COMMISSIONS

Bluestone is a beautiful and versatile material that we can customise for your bespoke project. We have enjoyed working with many artists and sculptors over the years.

SUPERIOR QUALITIES


A proven classic, VBQ’s bluestone is a well-loved, adaptable product with a versatile, minimalist aesthetic.

Victorian bluestone is superior to alternative domestic and imported stone as a widely applicable solution to many design challenges. Its qualities ensure your project will withstand the test of time.




UNRIVALLED DURABILITY

The density and texture of Victorian bluestone makes it particularly rust resistant and it naturally protects itself against extreme weather conditions.




PROVEN LONGEVITY

Victorian bluestone has a long lifespan and has been used to pave Australian cities, streets, and spaces for centuries.




SLIP RESISTANT

Boasting the highest non-slip rating compared to alternative paving materials, like concrete, Victorian bluestone exceeds OHSE compliance expectations.




QUALITY & STYLE

Unrivalled durability’ blurb. A natural material, bluestone has a distinctive tone, texture and minimalist aesthetic that offers timeless appeal.




CUSTOM-MADE

Every client will receive custom cut stone to their exacting specifications to suit every individual project and preferred stone size or finish.




LOCAL COUNTS

Supporting a local, family-owned business means you gain direct access to a reliable and flexible team ready to assist you throughout your project timeline – all while supporting local jobs.




SHORT LEAD TIMES

With our established quarry and state-of-the-art manufacturing facility located in north-west Melbourne, we are ready and willing to cut and process our bluestone to meet short lead times.




SUSTAINABLE MINDSET

An environmentally conscious mindset to supply chain, lean processing techniques and operations reduces wastage, repurposes water and minimises mileage and lead times.




FROM THE QUARRY TO THE PAVERS

VBQ has refined the art of stonemasonry from the “quarry to the pavers”. We take pride in continually evolving to ensure best-practice, custom-made bluestone production. From our local quarry to the finished product, this is our process.




STEP 1

Bluestone blocks are extracted from the quarry face, assessed for suitability and either added to the stockpile for processing or sent to be crushed for road base.




STEP 2

Each boulder in the stockpile is graded and sorted for transportation. Only the A grade boulders are selected to be produced into paving, kerbs, and other products. A careful selection process ensures boulders are free of cracks and imperfections.




STEP 3

Boulders are transported to our Brooklyn yard and grouped according to their end-product suitability. They are then sent to the wire saws for primary processing into billets. Once in billets, they are further assessed for suitability to meet standards for either paving or kerbs.




STEP 4

Billets are moved to the multi-blade saws to be processed into slabs for paving material. Alternatively, they are moved to the block saws for kerb production.



STEP 5

Slabs are sent to the bridge saws for paver production. Blocks are sent to CNC machines for kerb production, both straight and radial.



STEP 6

We perform a final quality check before products are packed onto pallets. At this stage, our clients are welcome to inspect their bluestone in our factory. Once approved and signed off, the pallets are prepared for dispatch.



VBQ | VICTORIAN
BLUESTONE
QUARRIES



A LASTING LEGACY

With VBQ, quality is guaranteed. Our bluestone's composition is adaptable and durable enough to suit many settings and safety requirements, prolonging asset life while lifting projects to landmark status.



Philip Island Penguin Parade Visitor Centre Terroir Architects, \$58m

The Philip Island Penguin Parade Visitor Centre is an acclaimed environmentally sustainable building that stitches together the junction of three distinct landscapes: basalt bluff, coastal dune and wetlands.

It features low carbon building materials, including sustainably sourced VBQ bluestone in the external landscaping. Features include diamond sawn "crazy" paving, random stack stone rock walls, curved solid bluestone seating blocks, as well as wall cladding, capping, and paving.

As a local supplier the architects and landscapers regularly consulted the VBQ team and visited the yard to select blocks, inspect production and ensure expectations were met.

"I remember the team at Victorian Bluestone Quarries being great to deal with – the bespoke product was good quality and delivered in a timely manner which helped us manage the construction program. Whenever we needed additional bluestone, they were able to meet demand quickly and acted in our best interests every time we faced a challenge together."

Kieran Slat, Ace Contractors Group



"Copenhagen" Bike Lanes City of Melbourne, \$10m

To increase cyclists' access to the city, the Victorian Government identified strategic cycling corridors to create bike lanes that mimic the style adopted in Copenhagen, Denmark – a city renowned for its cyclist-friendly design.

VBQ was commissioned by City of Melbourne to provide bluestone kerbing to clearly separate cyclists from other traffic. Bluestone kerbs were cut to the City of Melbourne standard: 300x300mm, diamond sawn in both straight and radial formats.

Approximately 40kms of new bike lanes will be completed by 2022. The kerb style is in keeping with existing City of Melbourne kerbs creating continuity in civic design and honouring heritage of cityscape.

"We have been able to count on Victorian Bluestone Quarries friendly and reliable team to deliver premium quality bluestone. Superior in its durability, we would recommend using local bluestone as it makes the perfect solution for pavements and municipal stone."

Terry Philips, Altere Civil




Level Crossing Removal Project Level Crossing Removal Authority, \$1.6b

This large infrastructure project saw 75 congested level crossings throughout Melbourne replaced with rail stations where VBQ supplied diamond sawn bluestone for paving, wall cladding, stairs, lift lobbies and other applications.

As part of this project, nine level crossings removed between Caulfield to Dandenong stations were replaced with elevated railways and five new stations. The client selected bluestone for its durability and sustainability while working to create a timeless aesthetic.

VBQ's flexible production allowed bespoke sizes and requests to be supplied quickly and accurately during station construction.

"We continue choosing to partner with Victorian Bluestone Quarries as they are easy to reach and always willing to make adjustments in response to our evolving project challenges. It's so valuable having a team who provide top quality local bluestone nearby who are open for us to visit the quarry or manufacturing facility to select stone and inspect quality." **Adam Newey, Carlos Ospina, Image Stone Construction**

 **WINNER** of The William Wardell Award for Public Architecture and Regional Prize at the 2020 Victorian Architecture Awards from the Australian Institute of Architects

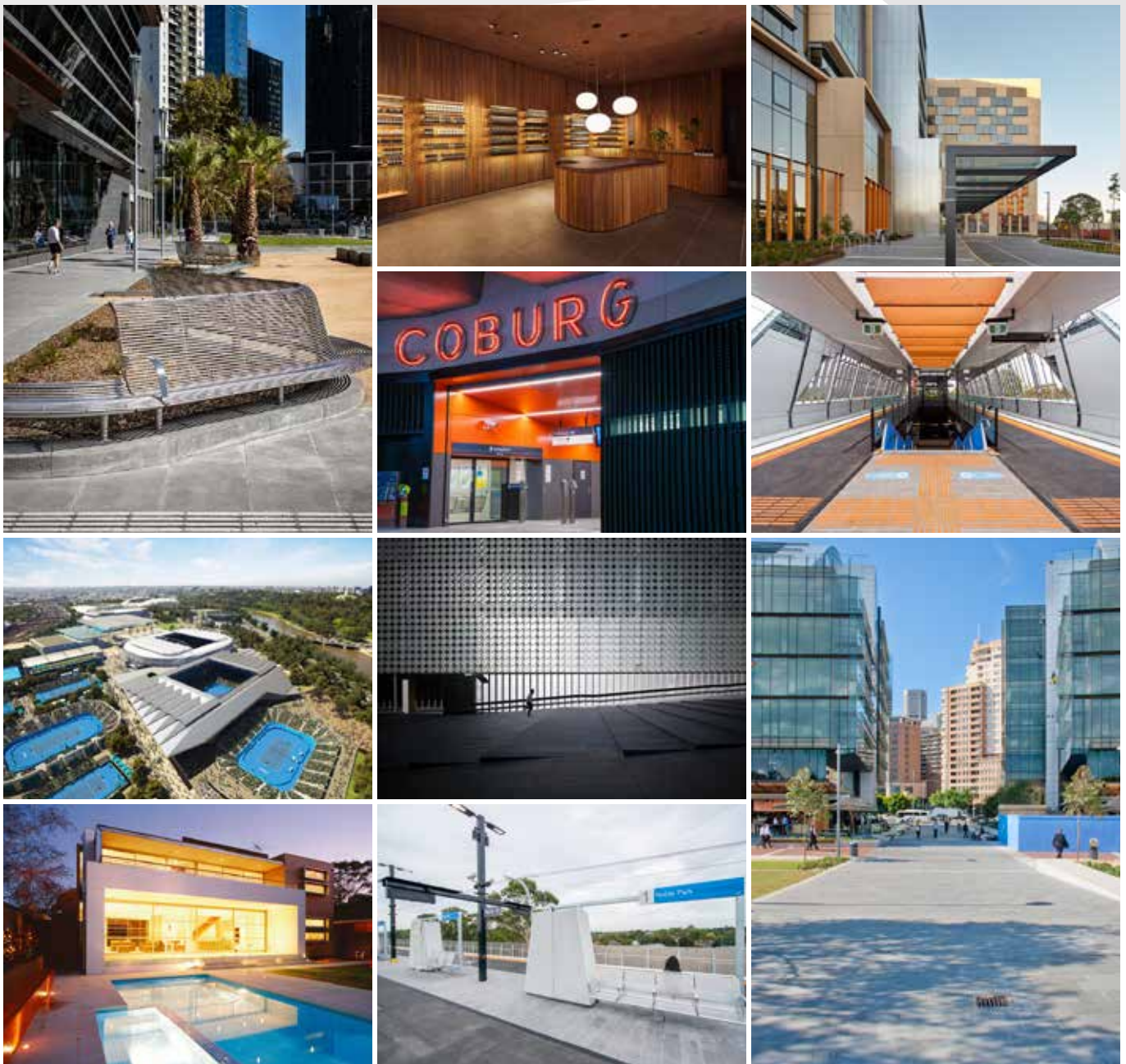


"As a sculptor and artist, I have worked with Victorian Bluestone Quarries as a reliable supplier of one-off bluestone blocks and specialised cut to order slabs for over twenty years. The quality of the product and having access to this unique supply of stone has been essential for my creative business to thrive."

Anthony Russo, Orchard Design

OUR ENDURING QUALITY

Some of our past projects



L-R: Southbank Boulevard, Melbourne; Aesop Concept Store; Bendigo Hospital; Coburg Station; Level Crossing Removals project; Melbourne Park; RMIT; Darling Square, Sydney; Residential Project; Noble Park Train Station



HEAD OFFICE

410-422 Francis St, Brooklyn
Melbourne, Victoria 3012
03 9314 4700
www.vicbluestone.com.au

KEY CONTACT

Tina Skliros, Leader
Major Contracts & Client Relations
sales@vicbluestone.com.au

We are Victorian bluestone specialists renowned for our friendly and reliable premium stonemasonry service. Contact us now for an obligation-free chat about your project needs.

