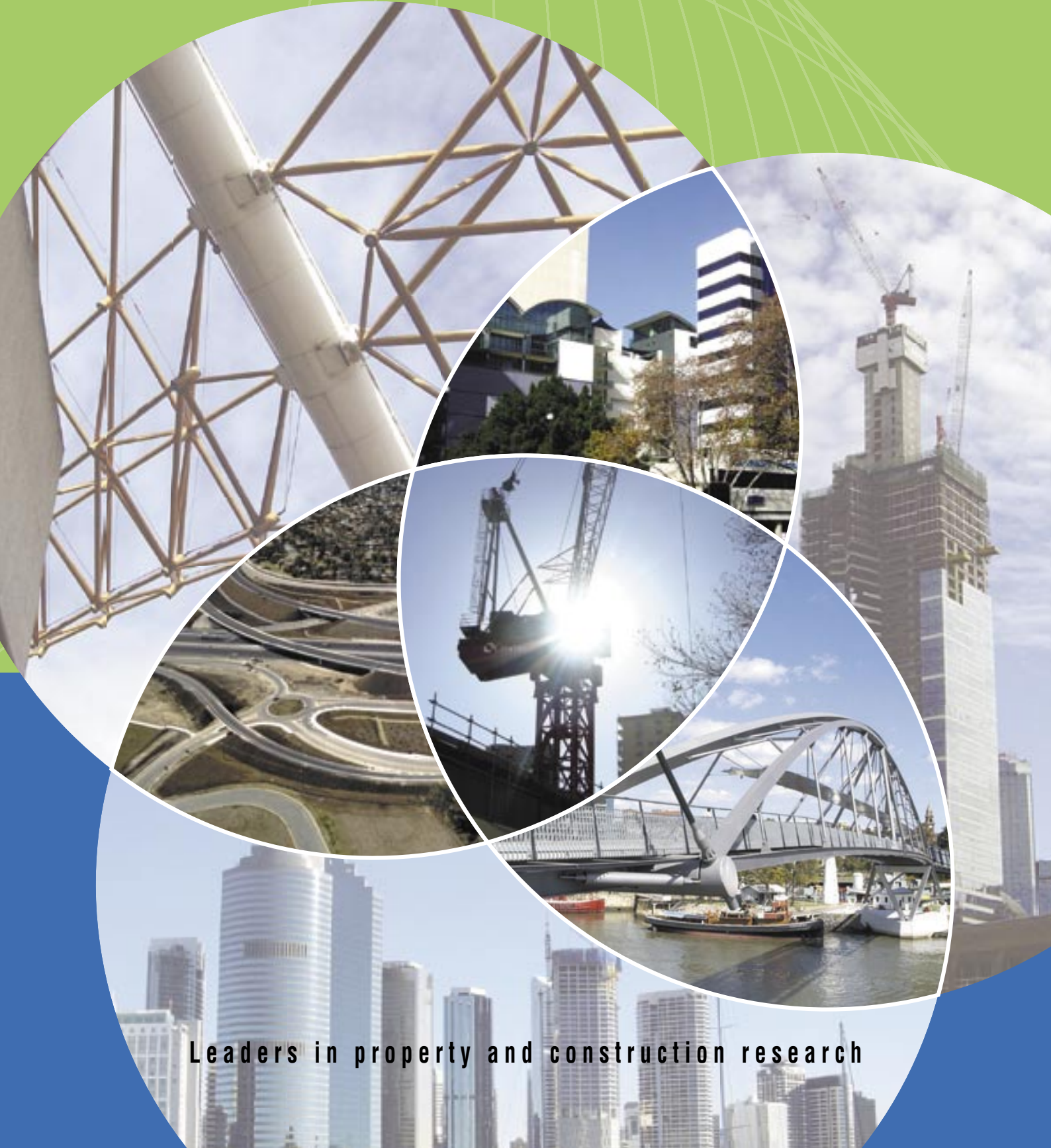




# **CRC Construction Innovation**

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



**Leaders in property and construction research**



## The Australian construction industry

## Australia's Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation

*"We aim to drive competitive outcomes and cultural change, improve industry effectiveness and boost national prosperity by encouraging the Australian construction industry to consider new ways of operating. I believe the most effective means of achieving this is through genuine collaboration."*

**Dr Keith Hampson**  
CEO  
Cooperative Research Centre  
for *Construction Innovation*

- Construction is an integral component of the Australian economy. It is also an essential component of Australia's well-being and progress and has a major influence on every Australian. It provides the homes in which we live, the places in which we work and play, our schools and hospitals, and the infrastructure essential for our day-to-day living such as roads, water and electricity supply, and telecommunications.
- The property and construction industry is one of the largest sectors in the Australian economy. In 1996-7, the construction cluster comprising the supply network, property sector and project-based firms contributed 14.4% to Australia's GDP through 230,000 firms employing 730,000 people.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that from an initial \$1 million extra output in construction, a possible \$2.9 million in output would be generated in the economy as a whole.
- Poor quality design and documentation is estimated to cost 7% of total construction costs with rework in construction likely to be greater than 10% of project cost. A 10% improvement in efficiency in the construction industry could boost GDP by 2.5% over five years.
- Traditionally the building and construction industry has been slow to research and innovate. An injection of \$64M for the creation of the Cooperative Research Centre for *Construction Innovation* aims to reverse this trend and deliver real benefits to its partners and the industry.

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for *Construction Innovation* is a national research, development and implementation centre focused on the needs of the property, design, construction and facility management sectors.

Established in 2001 and headquartered at Queensland University of Technology as an unincorporated joint venture under the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Program, *Construction Innovation* is developing key technologies, tools and management systems to improve the effectiveness of the construction industry.

Underpinning *Construction Innovation* is the most significant commitment ever made to construction research in Australia – a seven year \$14M Commonwealth grant and \$50M in industry, research and other government funding. More than 300 researchers and an impressive alliance of 20 leading partner organisations are involved in and support the activities of *Construction Innovation*.



## Our research, development and implementation

### Our vision

Our vision is to lead the Australian property and construction industry in collaboration and innovation.

### Our aims

*Construction Innovation* is committed to:

- Enhancing the contribution of long-term scientific and technological research and innovation to Australia's sustainable economic and social development.
- Enhancing the collaboration between researchers, industry and government, and to improving efficiency in the use of intellectual and research resources.
- Creating and commercially exploiting tools, technologies and management systems to deliver innovative and sustainable constructed assets to further the financial, environmental and social benefit to the construction industry and the community.

Our research incorporates a balance of short, medium and long-term projects and a portfolio of research that reflects the diversity of the property and construction industry and the lifecycle of the constructed product.

Research projects undergo a rigorous selection process based on their ability to make a real difference to the industry, their research quality and compatibility with partner needs and capabilities, and their potential for industry development or commercialisation.

We focus on the following core areas:

Program A **Business and Industry Development**

Program B **Sustainable Built Assets**

Program C **Delivery and Management of Built Assets**

Underpinning these research programs is an Information Communication Technology (ICT) Platform.

Each project involves at least two industry partners and two research partners to ensure collaboration and industry focus is optimised throughout the research and implementation phases. The complementary blend of industry partners ensures a real-life environment whereby research can be easily tested and results quickly disseminated.

Our research and development has already paved the way for some world-first innovations that will have far reaching benefits for the Australian property and construction industry.



*"The Australian property and construction industry has a notorious record of adversarial relationships and limited uptake of innovation. Today's internationally competitive environment demands a more collaborative and smarter approach."*

**Mr John McCarthy** Chairman  
Cooperative Research Centre  
for *Construction Innovation*



INDUSTRY

GOVERNMENT



RESEARCH



**CRC Construction Innovation**  
 BUILDING OUR FUTURE



For further information or to find out how your organisation can become involved in *Construction Innovation* please contact:

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CRCs bring together researchers from universities, CSIRO and other government laboratories, and private industry or public sector agencies, in long-term collaborative arrangements which support research and development and education activities to achieve real outcomes of national economic, environmental and social significance.