

In Brief



ABOVE: Greg Piggott.

Piggott heads to Trox

Greg Piggott has left the post of New South Wales state manager with Ziehl-ebm to take the reins as sales director with Trox Australia.

Piggott said he is relishing the challenge of "growing the current business base" for Trox in Australia and New Zealand with the focus on industrial products such as chilled beams and dampers.

He is looking forward to working closely with Trox's prime distributors Bradflow, Cooke Industries (NZ) and Flaktwoods.

States increase MRET levels

Four States have reacted against the Federal Government's Energy White Paper by pledging to increase the amount of renewable energy that must be bought every year.

Energy ministers from NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania agreed to increase the mandatory renewable energy target (MRET) to at least 20,000 gigawatt hours a year by 2020 at a meeting in Sydney recently.

The move contrasts with the federal energy statement released two weeks prior which left current MRET levels untouched at 9,500 gigawatt hours (2 per cent of the total energy production).

"Climate change is on the agenda big time and if the Federal Government doesn't wake up to it, we'll have to take it out of their hands and do it anyway," NSW energy minister Frank Sartor told the *Financial Review*.

Heatcraft branches out with new outlet

The newly-merged Heatcraft Australia has been quick to make its mark with the opening of its first Australian-based wholesale outlet in Sydney recently.

The new premises, in Narellan in south west Sydney, will focus on supporting the needs of Heatcraft Australia customers in the fastest growing region in Sydney. The new site will look to operate as a one-stop-shop for various equipment items and associated parts to service the refrigeration and air conditioning in the region.

HVAC innovations lead to big savings

A new government building in Cairns has installed state of the art air conditioning innovations to make it one of the most energy efficient office blocks in the nation.

William McCormack Place is the subject of a BRITE (Building Research, Innovation, Technology and Environment) project.

The use of the new HVAC technology has lead to a 37 per cent saving in energy costs and a 61 per cent saving in air conditioning capital and maintenance costs. The 4,500 m² building cost \$17.5 million to construct and fit-out.

Graham Messenger, principal property manager of Public Works said the \$11.9 million construction component compared favourably with typical office block construction.

"William McCormack Place cost no more than a conventional office block to build and is saving Public Works a substantial amount in ongoing operating costs," Messenger said.

It uses 37 per cent less energy than buildings of comparable size, a saving of about \$15 a square metre, he said.

"That translates into lower energy bills for tenants."

The innovative technology used in the building included:

- A chilled water thermal storage tank - eliminating the



need for a low-load chiller and associated prolonged periods of inefficient low-load operation of chiller sets;

- Moisture-absorbing thermal (heat exchanger) wheel - used to recover cool and dehumidified outside spill air energy to precondition incoming hot, moist ventilation air;
- Variable speed motor drives applied to air conditioning pumps and fans - so that only the amount of air or water required at any time is mobilised;
- 'Duty-standby' operation of

The William McCormack Place building in Cairns is using a raft of air conditioning innovations to make big savings in energy and plant costs.

the two 100 per cent chiller sets - reaping efficiency gains over the suggested alternative 'lead-lag' configuration of two sets at 70 per cent each, plus a low-load set; and

- Rotary screw chillers and low fan power cooling towers - facilitating high efficiency chilled water generation.

The thermal tank and wheel are the most novel and influential elements of the air conditioning system. Internal and external quantity surveyor reports on the building indicated that the cost of a commercial premises with environmental enhancements, such as those listed above, need be no greater than the cost of a comparable building without such enhancements.

The cost of additional plant at William McCormack Place directly resulted in cost savings in other plant. For example, the cost of the thermal wheel was partly offset by an associated reduction in the required capacity for the refrigeration plant. Additional modest cost savings were achieved through a value management study. ■

China looks to NRTB model

The Natural Refrigerants Transition Board (NRTB) recently met with visiting delegates charged with co-ordinating China's environmental program. The trio were in Australia to network with potential businesses to help forge an environmental blueprint for the planet's most populous nation.

NRTB chief executive Michael Bellstedt was invited by the Australian Greenhouse Office to attend lunch with the delegates and other interested parties aboard the *Solar Sailor* cruising Sydney Harbour.

The explosion of manufacturers in China, along with its moves toward greater partnerships in the world's economies, has led to calls for the awakening giant to be more environmentally aware.

"As the world calls for the manufacture of more natural refrigerant machinery, so China looks to the world for advice on how to utilise them", Bellstedt said.

The construction of 23 massive power stations among a host of new manufacturing currently underway in China is a major factor behind a global shortage in sheet metal.

The massive scope of such economic impact served to underline the need for China to develop a very rigorous environmental blueprint, Bellstedt said.

"We were very happy to help facilitate this and applaud the Chinese Government for taking the initiative. I think our meeting with the delegates will prove beneficial to them."