

ASBEC — greening our built environment

By Dr Keith Hampson, CEO for the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation

THE Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for *Construction Innovation* has moved Australia a step closer to achieving a greener future with the initiative that formed the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC). This national venture brings together key *green players* from across Australia to collaborate for more unified national guidelines for sustainable development in the property and construction industry.

Construction Innovation is represented within ASBEC by the Chair of the Governing Board, John McCarthy, who is also Chair of the Council, and Dr Peter Newton, Program Director of *Construction Innovation's* Research Program into Sustainable Built Assets. ASBEC has a solid core of more than 20 peak associations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia.

From the spectrum of issues considered relevant to delivering a sustainable built environment, 16 priority topics were identified by the Council. These included: a national sustainability framework, a regulatory framework, a national vision for sustainable building, best practice rating tools and processes, harmonising of sustainability rating systems and processes, business case for green buildings, incentives for green building and sustainability performance standards and benchmarks. The CRC submitted its more detailed findings about these topics to the House of Representatives Standing Committee for the inquiry into *Sustainable Cities 2025*.

ASBEC's September meeting will be an independently facilitated workshop to develop the elements of a national framework for sustainability in the built environment, and determine the Council's scope in relation to the 16 priorities. This will enable the Council to maximise its efforts in improving attitudes and practices in building-related sustainability. I look forward to bringing you further updates on ASBEC activities and initiatives and trust their leadership will have long-term ramifications for making real progress in sustainable development in this country.

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