



A COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABILITY - ASBEC

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

Since its establishment on 7 May, 2004 the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) has gained the support of close to 30 members*. ASBEC's is evolving into Australia's peak consultative council on sustainability for the built

environment and developing a real property and construction industry agenda.

This national venture brings together key organisations that have traditionally had a somewhat disjointed approach to sustainability issues. Their collaboration will pave the way for more unified national guidelines for sustainable development in the industry. ASBEC will work to persuade stakeholders in the built environment and the industries served by it to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for *Construction Innovation* was a founding member of the Council and our Chair, John McCarthy, has also chaired ASBEC through this important initial phase. *Construction Innovation*, as a national research, development and implementation Centre focussed on the needs of the property, design, construction and facility management sectors is proud to have played a key role in the formation of the Council. The CRC will have an ongoing lead role through our Sustainable Built Assets Program Director, Dr Peter Newton, Science Director of CSIRO Manufacturing and Infrastructure Technologies.

In February, John McCarthy hands over his position as Chair of ASBEC to architect Caroline Pidcock who runs her own consulting practice and is Adjunct Professor at the University of New South Wales and currently President of the NSW Chapter, Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

In her vision for the Council Caroline states, "We must set targets that stretch us and determine pathways that enable us to achieve them. We must

think creatively about the opportunities we can realise and how we can achieve them. The future must be sustainable and we have to quickly redirect our actions to improve what we do and the outcomes we produce."

In February 2005, ASBEC will meet and report on the four action areas identified at their September 2004 workshop. The Steering Committee formed as part of the new ASBEC governance structure will oversee projects aligned to these areas:

1. Refocusing the building and planning regulations on creating and maintaining minimum sustainability standards.
2. Increasing the uptake of leading sustainable practices.
3. Building the business case for developing and operating sustainable facilities.
4. Communicating and educating the public and the practitioners on the benefits and practices of sustainability.

ASBEC trust their leadership will have long-term ramifications for making real progress in sustainable development in this country. The Council welcomes new membership application from persons representing organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia.

* ASBEC Membership as at 14 December 2004

- ◆ Air Conditioning and refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association of Australia
- ◆ Association of Accredited Certifiers
- ◆ Association of Consulting Engineers Australia
- ◆ Australian Building Codes Board
- ◆ Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy
- ◆ Australian Conservation Foundation
- ◆ Australian Green Development Forum
- ◆ Australian Greenhouse Office
- ◆ Australian Industry Group
- ◆ Australian Institute of Refrigeration Air Conditioning & Heating
- ◆ Australian Procurement & Construction Council

- ◆ Brisbane City Council
- ◆ Building Commission
- ◆ Building Products Innovation Council
- ◆ CRC for Construction Innovation
- ◆ Department of Environment and Heritage
- ◆ Department of Industry, Tourism & Resources
- ◆ Engineers Australia
- ◆ Facility Management Association of Australia
- ◆ Green Building Council of Australia
- ◆ Master Builders Association
- ◆ Planning Institute of Australia
- ◆ Property Council of Australia
- ◆ Qld Department of Public Works
- ◆ Royal Australian Institute of Architects
- ◆ Timber Development Association
- ◆ The University of Sydney

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