

Press Release

Australia's building and construction sector has lessons for visiting Dutch government delegation

A Dutch government delegation is coming to Australia for 3 days on 17 February 2004 for what they describe as *Mission 2* – to talk to the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Construction Innovation about Australia's experience of reform initiatives in the building and construction sector.

Dr Keith Hampson, CEO of CRC for Construction Innovation, based at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, says he is not surprised Australia's model of industry development has created international interest.

"The Dutch see our property and construction industry development model as very good, and Australia's **Construction Innovation** as unique," Dr Hampson said.

"This is not the first time Australia's CRC model has generated international interest, and they're looking for lessons to learn from us," he said.

Australia's CRC for Construction Innovation began in June 2001 following recommendations in the Federal Government's Action Agenda of the late 90's for the establishment of an applied R&D centre for Australia's property and construction sector.

In its short life, Construction Innovation has become known as a national leader in applied R&D, with 28 research projects, 20 of which are completing this year.

The Dutch delegation is composed of George Ang (Deputy Director of Design and Engineering, Dutch Government Building Agency), Roger Courtney (Consultant in construction innovation), and Jan van Oorschot (Managing Director of Business Development, Royal Volker Wessel Stevin Group).

Dr Keith Hampson says the Australian CRC model of industry, government and research collaboration has worked extremely well in the property and construction industry.

"Without committed industry input into research, development management and diffusion of results, and without industry's commitment to continue to drive collaboration and linkages nationally and internationally, Construction Innovation would cease to have a purpose," Dr Hampson said.

"This is what the Dutch will learn from us - that a model of industry development and collaboration is a key to reform."

And what will Construction Innovation learn from the Dutch?

"We will use their industry example as a reminder to continue sharpening Construction Innovation's focus in R&D and national initiatives so that our Australian partners and industry gain even greater opportunities to leverage internationally," Dr Hampson said.

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Construction Innovation partners:

Arup Australasia, Bovis Lend Lease, John Holland, Rider Hunt, Brookwater, Brisbane City Council, DEM, Woods Bagot, Australian Building Codes Board, Building Commission (Vic), Qld Dept Public Works, Qld Dept Main Roads, Qld Dept State Development, CSIRO, Qld University of Technology, RMIT, University of Sydney, University of Newcastle, University of Western Sydney