

ASBEC, the Council for a greener built environment



BY DR KEITH HAMPSON, CEO OF THE CRC FOR CONSTRUCTION INNOVATION

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC), an initiative of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for *Construction Innovation*, is aiming to improve attitudes and practices in sustainability across the property and construction industry. In May this year, it became an Incorporated Association under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)*. *Construction Innovation* is represented on the Council by the Chair of our Governing Board, John McCarthy (ASBEC Chair) and Dr Peter Newton, Program Director of *Construction Innovation's* Research Program into Sustainable Built Assets

ASBEC is bringing together disparate organisations that have traditionally had a somewhat tribal approach to sustainability issues across our states and territories.

Now, the well-intentioned energies of a wide variety of players can be better channelled towards making a unified difference to our built environment.

Sixteen priority topics were identified by the Council and considered relevant to delivering a sustainable built environment. They include 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. These findings have been submitted to the House of Representatives Standing Committee for the inquiry into *Sustainable Cities 2025*.

In September 2004, ASBEC will meet for an independently facilitated workshop to develop the elements of a national framework for sustainability in the built environment and identify its priority areas to ensure a targeted and manageable focus.

As ASBEC takes on the challenge of progressing construction-related sustainability across the country, I look forward to relaying the outcomes of their leadership and initiatives in a future column.

For further ASBEC membership information, contact Graeme Taylor (ASBEC Executive Director) by telephone on (02) 61612536 or 0439 956 691, or by email to gtaylor@policyperspectives.com.au