

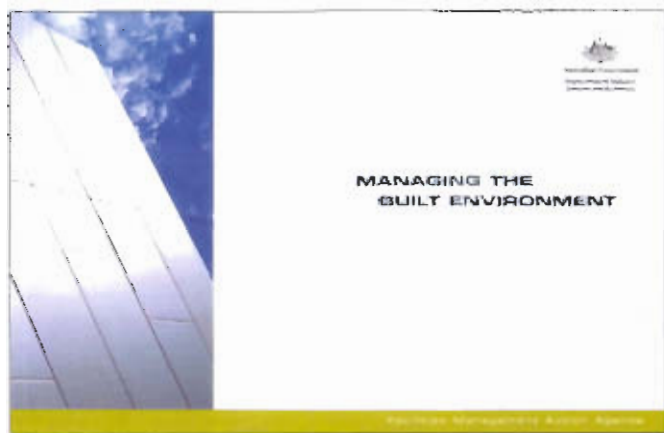


STEPHEN BALLESTY

FM Action Agenda reaches midpoint

BY STEPHEN BALLESTY, IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN, FMA AUSTRALIA, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, FM ACTION AGENDA, DIRECTOR, RIDER HUNT

The Facilities Management (FM) Action Agenda was established by the Department of Industry, Tourism & Resources and produced its strategic plan entitled 'Managing the Built Environment' in 2005. The plan set out a 20 point action plan to improve the recognition of FM as a contributor to a more productive and sustainable built environment through improved innovation, education and regulatory reform.



The three-year implementation phase has now reached its mid point and has already made significant progress across a wide range of initiatives. Highlights from our Recognition Working Group's achievements on the key platforms include:

Innovation

A web based survey identifying innovation as core to business growth and corporate success. The survey confirms that further FM innovation is required in the areas of services procurement and performance benchmarking, with the majority of respondents stating that they learn about innovation through networking. Further development of a web-based FM Innovation Forum is planned.

This working group recently conducted an Innovation Round Table breakfast at FMA Australia's *ideaaction 2007* at which industry leaders exchanged ideas on potential research projects and innovation forums.

Education & Training

Broad engagement across the educational sector has been pursued to develop FM career pathways. This has included working with the Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC) to support the provision of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and the use of the Property Operations and Development (POD) courses framework for FM education.

Additional to the Group's dealings with the higher education sector has seen the establishment of Australia's first undergraduate FM degree

program this year at Deakin University. Other Universities are also considering new FM programs or increasing the FM content within existing courses.

The update of FMA Australia's competency framework and the production of FM fact sheets for the CPSISC's Regional Industry Careers Advisors and support of future Careers Expos are also planned.

Regulatory Reform

A detailed understanding of requirements for nine regulatory issues across multiple legislative jurisdictions has progressed with a view to developing a National Protocol Recommendation for uniformity. It is also intended that FM compliance guides should be developed to assist owners, tenants and managers better appreciate the strategic role of FM and the benefits of cross-jurisdictional harmonisation of compliance requirements.

Sustainability

Consultation regarding FM's contribution to resolving a range of environmental challenges has been pursued with a range of industry groups such as the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC), the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) and the Property Council of Australia (PCA).

Specifically input has been provided to the Warren Centre's Low Energy High Rise project, the CRC for Construction Innovation's Your Building project and the Department of the Environment's ESO Operations Guide for Commercial and Public Buildings.

Communications

The FM Action Agenda's distinctive logo and dedicated website www.fmactionagenda.org have been established. Our second Implementation Annual Report is due in September 2007.

Industry presentations and media releases continue to profile our unique collaboration between government and industry, both here and abroad, and within the last month alone the FM Action Agenda has added



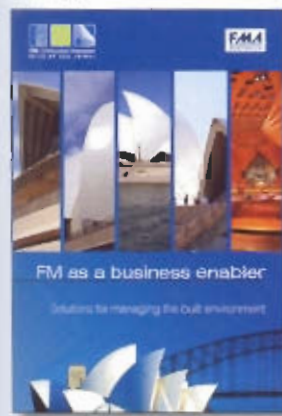
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facilities management action agenda

presentations in Atlanta and London to the list. On 20th June in Canberra the findings of the FM Exemplar Project will be showcased for the fourth time, with the Hon. Bob Baldwin MP and myself presenting.

FM Exemplar Project: Sydney Opera House

The FM Exemplar Project: Sydney Opera House was initiated by the Australian Government's FM Action Agenda, as part of a strategic framework for managing the built environment. The research, supported by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, was undertaken by the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation in collaboration with Rider Hunt, Woods Bagot, Transfield Services Australia, Sydney Opera House, FMA Australia, Brisbane City Council, Queensland Department of Public Works, CSIRO, Queensland University of Technology and The University of Sydney. The project was led by Rider Hunt on behalf of the CRC for Construction Innovation and FM Action Agenda.

Sydney Opera House – Australia's most famous landmark and one of the busiest performing arts centres in the world provided us with a challenge to showcase the value of FM, but we did it. FM Exemplar Project reports can be downloaded free at www.construction-innovation.info



The FM Exemplar Project: Sydney Opera House was completed late last year, representing the output of 23 participants from 10 organisations across three research streams. The final report integrating the Digital Modelling, Services Procurement and Performance Benchmarking research streams was entitled 'FM as a business enabler'.

The FM Exemplar Project: Sydney Opera House has now received the

Facility Management Association of Australia's Rider Hunt Terotech Industry Achievement Award for excellence in facility management strategy and practice. The award was presented last month at the FMA Australia *ideaaction 2007* conference gala dinner in Sydney.

The Digital Modelling component of the FM Exemplar Project research also featured in two recent Arup-sponsored international awards – the Jury's Choice category of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Technology in Architectural Practice (TAP) 2007 Building Information Model (BIM) awards, and the Bentley Awards for Excellence 2007 award for BIM in multiple disciplines.



As John McCarthy, Chairman of FM Action Agenda stated: "the FM Exemplar Project has made a significant contribution to the body of FM industry knowledge and has demonstrated Australia's leadership in the FM profession globally".

Moving Forward

This article provides only a high level update, with further detail being provided in future editions of Facility Perspectives.

Should you wish to become more involved in the FM Action Agenda or directly support any of its initiatives

please do not hesitate to contact either John McCarthy as Chairman on (02) 9252 6973, David Duncan at FMA Australia on (03) 8641 6608 or myself.

Thank you to all those who have assisted thus far, we are looking forward to the second half of the implementation phase and let's make a difference!!