

## **New web service helps promote green buildings**

Wednesday, 14 December 2005

**A NEW free web-based information portal will soon be able to provide resources and information to Australian businesses about the process of constructing, inhabiting and managing commercial buildings in a green and sustainable way.**

The initiative, to be headed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation, was founded by the Federal Government's Australian Greenhouse Office and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council.

The program, aimed at commercial property builders, designers, owners and managers, was proposed after an industry-wide survey and workshop with some of Australia's sustainability experts.

**CRC** for Construction Innovation chief executive Dr Keith Hampson said the survey exposed a need for common definitions, measurements and calculation standards in the sustainability field, as well as real-life examples of businesses improving sustainability for investors, tenants, developers or regulators.

"This recognition of the how drivers differ between stakeholders is key to the success of the project and will be supported by case studies showing how sustainable methodologies have been implemented in existing buildings," Hampson said.

The Your Building initiative will follow the earlier Australian Greenhouse Office project Your Home, which provided information and justification for sustainable building in the residential sector.

"The Your Building program is not just focused on reducing greenhouse gases or water use, it will also describe why and how producing a sustainable commercial building can help build a sustainable business, reduce risks to staff health and increase profitability," Hampson said.

The group said Your Building would provide technical advice regarding sustainable approaches to design, financing, construction and operation of commercial buildings, links to up-to-date web resources and current industry research.

The program is still in its formative stages with calls for authors and contributors to be made in early 2006.