



Speech

The Hon Bob Baldwin, MP

21 November 2006

Speech at the Sydney Opera House Exemplar Project Showcase

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to be here to celebrate some of the recent outcomes of the Facilities Management Action Agenda – especially when it will have such great benefit to a building that means so much to us all.

The Sydney Opera House is more than a national icon – it shows the extraordinary courage and foresight of a nation even to begin to build what many thought could not be achieved.

And those who know a bit about the history of its construction will appreciate the magnitude of the achievement.

It is more than Sydney's Opera House – it is Australia's gift to the world ... it just happened to be designed by a Dane!

It's also important to the Facilities Management Action Agenda because the Opera House has been used as an example what can be accomplished in the field of facilities management.

And for it to occur in a 'living' building like this is even more of an accomplishment.

It's almost incomprehensibly busy.

The Sydney Opera House is visited by more than 4 million people a year, and it is home to around 2000 performances a year (which works out to almost 11,000 visitors a day and more than five performances a day every day of the year!)

With so much going on, it is no surprise that successfully managing the infrastructure here can yield massive savings

This is true across the economy because facilities management affects almost every facet of business productivity.

And if you get facilities management right, productivity and savings quickly follow.

And this is important.

- That's why we need to improve innovation in facilities management.
- That's why we need to promote sustainability in facilities management.
- That's why we need to raise the profile of facilities management.
- That's why the project at the Opera House is important and it is why the Australian Government has helped fund it.

And as I alluded to earlier, there would be few facilities in Australia with greater complexities – and therefore enormous opportunities for greater efficiencies – than the Opera House.

I couldn't believe it when I read the Opera House has more than 1000 rooms – it boggles the mind, really.

Using the Opera House for this project highlights the benefits of the work being undertaken under the auspices of the Action Agenda, and the process of Action Agendas which makes them unique and effective.

Action Agendas

Part of the secret of Action Agendas is getting out of your way!

The Government, through the Action Agenda process, works closely with industry to identify opportunities for growth and impediments to growth – but we don't tell you what they are.

That's because you are the experts of your industry and, we believe, you don't want governments arrogantly telling you how to run your business.

Instead, we provide the framework and support for you to interact with your industry and make the most of that opportunity.

What we want is for the industry to drive its own future to help bring about these efficiencies and implement the actions identified through the Action Agenda process.

The Exemplar Project is a perfect example of this mechanism in practice.

The Sydney Opera House Facilities Management project was identified as the perfect vehicle to give effect to a number of the 20 recommendations arising from the Facilities Management Action Agenda.

The aim of the project was to demonstrate the optimal use and effectiveness of the Sydney Opera House maintenance budget – budget of more than \$19 million a year.

The Exemplar Project

To maximise beneficial outcomes, the project focused on the themes of Business Information Modelling (also known as Digital Modelling), Service Procurement and Performance Benchmarking.

Digital Modelling developed a model capable of integrating information from disparate software systems and combining this with a spatial 3D Geographic Information System (GIS).

A demonstration of the digital modelling program for part of the Opera House has already occurred.

Service Procurement has focused on defining the performance levels of building maintenance, identifying procurement routes and deciding best-value selection.

Performance Benchmarking involved a two-stage international survey of iconic facilities to identify the highest order items which should be considered within a Facilities Management benchmarking framework.

Of course, Jorn Utzon is on your side. He wants to make the building more efficient. He appreciates that it isn't static.

In 2000, he said "As time passes and needs change, it is natural to modify the building to suit the needs and technique of the day".

Which is what you are doing.

But I imagine it's harder working with a building people actually care about compared to a more mundane building!

The innovative methods identified through this project will not only support the industry's Facilities Management Action Agenda but can be implemented across the industry at the strategic, management and operational level.

Like the Facilities Management Action Agenda, this project will help to raise the profile of Facilities Management and highlight the valuable work carried out by the industry.

It also serves as a fine example of various levels of government working successfully with industry and research bodies.

The incredible input of the CRC for Construction Innovation is a perfect example of that.

And this is one of the most important achievements – not only of this Action Agenda but all of them.

I would like to congratulate you on the progress you have made.

I look forward to your updates and more runs on the board.

Thank you.