

Sample 'sustainable construction' letter

20 February 2006

The Honourable Julie Bishop, MP
Minister for Education, Science and Training
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Firstly, let me congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister for Education, Science and Training.

I am writing to you today to discuss the Cooperative Research Centre program, a program that the Federal Government should be congratulated for creating. This important policy initiative has delivered significant benefits to the construction industry that I wish to highlight given the approaching commencement of the CRC funding renewal process.

As you would be aware the CRC for *Construction Innovation* was formed in 2001 in an effort to create a more sustainable, profitable and safer construction industry.

Much of its work has centred on reducing the impact building projects have on the environment, improving the safety for workers on construction sites, encouraging more innovative building design and developing tools and techniques to allow the industry to efficiently manage their building and infrastructure assets.

To illustrate just one of the many benefits that are being delivered to our industry, the CRC for *Construction Innovation* is currently undertaking several major initiatives that are improving sustainability in the construction industry.

Australia faces manifold environmental and ecological pressures. The amount of energy, water and types of materials we use in our homes and commercial buildings is a significant consideration. Finding sustainable solutions in the construction industry will reduce our ecological impact, improve economic returns and extend community harmony.

In conjunction with the Australian Greenhouse Office, *Construction Innovation* is creating the Your Building website, a one-stop knowledge bank for creating and maintaining sustainable commercial buildings. The site will help reduce water and energy consumption, educate users on sustainable options and its cost effectiveness, among other outcomes.

Construction Innovation is also developing LCADesign, a software product that assesses the environmental impact of buildings at the design stage, reducing greenhouse emissions and air and water pollution.

The work being undertaken by the CRC for *Construction Innovation* into sustainability in the built environment is vitally important and needs to continue. We are committed to the continuation of its funding.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you or a representative from your office if you require more information.

Again, congratulations to your Government for this outstanding policy initiative.

Yours sincerely

Your Name
Your Title