

Built Environment Industry Innovation Council



Sue Holliday, Chair

Hello to all our stakeholders,

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Built Environment Industry Innovation Council (BEIIC) *E-newsletter*. Since the last e-newsletter in July 2009, there has been a wealth of activity in the built environment sector.

- The BEIIC held its fourth meeting on 10 August 2009;
- The annual Built Environment Meets Parliament (BEMP) conversation was held on 12 August 2009, where the built environment industry had an opportunity to discuss some key issues with members of Parliament; and
- The last few months have also seen a number of Government initiatives announced which are aimed at developing an integrated and sustainable approach to the built environment.

The 4th BEIIC Meeting on 10 August 2009

At its 4th meeting the BEIIC considered the following reports that were presented at the 3rd meeting of the BEIIC:

- [Procurement Practice: Impediments to Innovation and Opportunities for Change;](#)
- [Retrofitting Residential Precincts and Housing: Current Practice, New Strategies and Industry Training Needs;](#) and
- [Innovative Practices in the Australian Built Environment Sector: An Information Resource for Stakeholders.](#)

The BEIIC is actively progressing key recommendations from these reports that address the Council's priorities.

The BEIIC is well underway in achieving its 2010 milestones from its [2009-2014 Strategic Plan](#), including proposed initiatives to develop a community engagement strategy and critically examine current regulatory frameworks.

BEIIC Support for Green Skills Training Initiative

The *Retrofitting Residential Housing and Precincts: Current Practice, New Strategies and Training Responses*, highlighted the fragmentation of green up-skilling and training programs and the need for a more consolidated and consistent training curriculum across the various training pathways. The BEIIC has been exploring opportunities to progress the recommendations of the report including support for the development of green collar skills training in the trades and opportunities for retrofitting existing housing and commercial properties to meet the challenges of a carbon reduced future.

Victoria University, with the support of the Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD), submitted a proposal to the BEIIC for green skilling curriculum development funding.

The University intends to develop a green skills curriculum for retrofitting of houses and buildings that can be used as an up-skilling opportunity for construction industry tradespeople. The course is intended to consolidate a number of disparate courses currently being offered by Victoria University and other training providers.

The Council considered the merits of the proposal and agreed it was consistent with one of its key priority areas: green skilling for the retrofitting industry. The Council recommended that the Department of Innovation Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) provide funding support for this project.

BEIIC members will be part of the steering committee for this project, providing advice from an industry perspective and to ensure the outcomes can be applied nationally.



Online Collaboration Portal

I am also pleased to report that the DIISR is currently building an extranet to support ongoing collaboration between Enterprise Connect and the Industry Innovation Councils.

Urban Planning, Information Technology and Evidence-Based Decision Making for Emission Reductions in our Cities

To support the work of the Council, DIISR also commissioned a project to analyse and quantify greenhouse gas emissions and social equity issues associated with the built environment. Due for completion by the end of 2009, this project will also analyse the use of information technology to develop tools to support analysis to achieve sustainable outcomes in major planning and development decisions.

Built Environment Meets Parliament (BEMP) www.bemp.com.au

This year's BEMP explored the themes of Prosperity, Liveability, Sustainability and Partnerships. It was a useful opportunity for members of industry to discuss Government's renewed focus on the built environment. I participated in the panel session exploring ways to unlock credit; maintain and create jobs; and boost Australia's productivity and competitiveness. Key Ministers that presented at the summit were Ministers Carr, Tanner, Plibersek, Shorten and Garrett.

During his keynote address on partnerships, Senator Kim Carr discussed the importance of the built environment as an arena for technical innovation and an instrument for remaking social conditions. He spoke positively about the BEIC's progress on its current work plan and its emphasis on developing networks to accelerate the adoption of new ideas:

'Under the leadership of Sue Holliday, [The BEIC] has already sketched out a strategic plan for the next five years, with the focus on procurement, skills, R&D, innovation, exports, the environment, regulation and community engagement.

This is quite a work program, but the council is already making good progress...

The Built Environment Industry Innovation Council has worked tirelessly to forge new links, whether

- *through its first Stakeholder Forum, which was held in April;*
- *through its collaborations with agencies across government;*
- *through its engagement with Enterprise Connect, and especially the Creative Industries Innovation Centre; and*
- *through its collaboration with the Information Technology Industry Innovation Council.'*

The work of the Digital Modelling Group also received attention:

"It is very pleasing to see that the Information Technology and Built Environment Industry Innovation Councils have joined forces in a Digital Modelling Working Group.

The group is working on the application of ICT in the Australian built environment sector.

The group will bring together industry, researchers and policy-makers, and its brief will be to accelerate the take-up of digital technologies that will enable the industry to do things in new and better ways."

The Built Environment Digital Modelling Working Group

The Built Environment Digital Modelling Working Group is a joint initiative of the BEIC and the Information Technology Industry Innovation Council. It is seeking to develop the sector's capabilities for adopting integrated digital models and technology to address the range of issues facing the built environment industry. The first meeting of the working group was held on 17 August 2009. At this meeting the Working Group agreed to a discussion paper to focus their purpose and explore the issues surrounding the adoption of digital models and technology. For more information and the discussion paper refer to the BEIC website: www.innovation.gov.au/beic.



New Government initiatives

There has been plenty of good news for the built environment industry from the Government in recent months. New initiatives announced by the Government aimed at developing a sustainable and productive built environment are:

- **Built Environment Sustainability Roundtable**

On 12 August 2009, the Hon Peter Garrett AM, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, announced a Built Environment Sustainability Roundtable to provide built environment industries, advocates and practitioners with a structured and direct opportunity to bring forward issues and ideas in the area of building sustainability. A transcript of the speech can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/sp20090812.html>

- **Healthy Spaces and Places** www.healthyplaces.org.au

The Health Spaces and Places website was launched on 12 August 2009 by the Hon Warren Snowden MP, Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, and funded through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The website Healthy Spaces and Places is a national guide for planning, designing and creating sustainable communities that encourage healthy living. It is intended to be a single source of easy-to-find, practical information from experts in health, planning, urban design, community safety and transport planning.

Engagement with the Council

On behalf of the Council, I welcome built environment industry stakeholders bringing forward views and information to the Council. I would be delighted to meet with industry representatives and where time permits, invite brief presentations to the Council on issues of interest to our work. So far, the Council has received presentations from ASBEC on their "Constructing Cities for the Future" project; the Enterprise Connect area of DIISR, giving an overview of Enterprise Connect and the Creative Industries Innovation Centre; the Research Infrastructure area of DIISR, giving an overview of built environment research infrastructure and the OECD Global Science Forum; and updates on the National Strategy for Energy Efficiency from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

On December 8 2009, the BEIIC plans to hold a workshop for Industry Associations interested in finding out more about the work of BEIIC. The Secretariat will be inviting you to this workshop and will contact you shortly with all the details.

The Council is best contacted through the Secretariat in DIISR. Contact details, Council membership, current projects, Strategic Plan and publications are on our website at: www.innovation.gov.au/beiic