

Minister to drive sustainability in infrastructure

Queensland's Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change & Innovation, The Hon Andrew McNamara, will launch a program to develop an Australian sustainability rating scheme at an Australian Green Infrastructure Council (AGIC) reception in Brisbane on Thursday. (February 28)

AGIC was recently formed to advance sustainability in infrastructure and establish an applicable rating scheme.

AGIC chairman David Hood said there is currently no such universal rating scheme in Australia to benchmark and reward sustainable practices in the infrastructure industry.

"While clients are aware of the need for sustainability and designers, constructors and operators are incorporating sustainable features, there are few tools to help them assess and prioritise sustainability efforts to know they're achieving the best outcomes possible," Mr Hood said.

Voluntary rating schemes have been successfully used in the building industry to reduce energy and water bills, improve occupant productivity (particularly through fewer sicknesses and higher staff retention), obtain market recognition, and obtain higher returns on investment over the life of a building.

Industry and governments alike are realising the importance of how sustainability issues can influence the success of infrastructure projects.

"The potential for nuisance, disruption and conflict which can arise in the community, resulting from the planning and building of infrastructure projects is seen time and time again in the media," Mr Hood said.

"These often arise out of concern for the environment, commuting disruptions, ability to respond to natural disasters, and nuisance caused by construction activities."

The event will be held at Parliament House this Thursday 28 February and start at 6:00pm.

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For further information contact David Hood on 0408 487 498, or email info@agic.net.au. Visit www.agic.net.au for details.