

# AGIC Charter

## Context

Australia requires an unprecedented level of public and private investment to support the establishment of new, sustainable<sup>1</sup> infrastructure assets to meet the needs of our expanding population. There is also growing public and business appreciation of the need to deliver new infrastructure in a manner that protects and enhances social, environmental and economic benefits for a broader group of stakeholders (infrastructure sustainability<sup>1</sup>).

To date, social and environmental benefits and costs associated with the planning, development, operation and disposal of infrastructure assets have not been a primary focus of the infrastructure industry. Industry now acknowledges this shortcoming and through AGIC will lead a contemporary approach to delivering and operating infrastructure based on the following objectives:

- A “whole of life” approach to design, delivery, operation and financing of infrastructure assets;
- The need to protect and improve community amenity, enhance biodiversity, minimise total carbon (balancing embodied energy against operational emissions), design adaptive capacity to climate change and consider social and environmental impacts across the supply chain;
- Establishing sustainability performance criteria that support a favourable investment environment for mobilising public and private sector investment capital in infrastructure assets; and
- Encouraging the inclusion of sustainability measurement in infrastructure asset valuation.

## Mission & Vision

AGIC will be the principal industry catalyst for advancing sustainability through promoting the sustainable design, construction and operation of Australian infrastructure.

To accomplish its mission AGIC will:

- Be the industry forum for sourcing and sharing knowledge on innovation in establishing sustainable infrastructure assets;
- Develop tools to benchmark and reward organisations and projects which deliver innovative practice in the design, construction, procurement and operation of sustainable infrastructure; and
- Facilitate the education and training of its members and stakeholders in the area of sustainable infrastructure.

---

<sup>1</sup> AGIC defines “sustainable infrastructure” as infrastructure that encourages behavioural and lifestyle change towards a more sustainable society (ie. that facilitates the development of economic and social systems that are adaptable to change, support human equity and diversity, and which reduce the impact on broader natural systems). “Infrastructure sustainability” is defined as infrastructure that has been planned, designed, procured, constructed, operated and disposed of in a manner that maximizes value by balancing all the material, social, economic and environmental aspects and impacts across the “whole of life cycle” of the asset.

## Operating Principles

The following principles will guide AGIC in its operational activities:

- AGIC will have its own point of view on sustainable infrastructure and develop policy positions on key issues;
- AGIC's policy positions and assessment tools will be designed to be practical and based on best available science;
- AGIC will adopt a "whole of life" approach in developing its assessment policies and tools;
- AGIC will assess and rate all projects submitted and endeavour to incorporate the assessment of the "societal justification" of projects in the design and operation of its rating tools;
- AGIC's assessment tools will aim not be prescriptive, but rather will be performance based;
- AGIC's assessment tools will be developed and updated in keeping with evolving best international practice and both sustainable infrastructure, and infrastructure sustainability performance standards;
- AGIC will collaborate and share knowledge with similar organisations where improved economies and efficiencies can be achieved;
- AGIC will conduct itself in a transparent and inclusive manner with a broad suite of stakeholders (members, users, industry, academia, government & non-government organisations and community-based organisations); and
- AGIC will be a "not for profit" organisation, however will charge for its services as a means to enhance its viability and support its mission.

## Key Initiatives

To achieve its mission, AGIC will develop programmes and activities in the following areas:

1. **Knowledge** - promote and establish forums for the development, discussion and dissemination of sustainability knowledge, practices and case studies within the infrastructure industry and to its broader stakeholders;
2. **Tools** - establish sustainability performance benchmarks and assessment tools for infrastructure projects which recognise leading-practice for Australian conditions;
3. **Innovation** – develop programs and schemes that encourage and reward innovation in the design and delivery of infrastructure sustainability;
4. **Research** - act as a lead partner in research projects into sustainability in infrastructure design, construction and operation and in developing performance evaluation metrics; and
5. **Education** - encourage and develop teaching and training programs aimed at raising the knowledge and skills base of infrastructure professionals (public and private sectors) on sustainability issues.