

# RATING TOOL PREPARES FOR TAKE OFF



AUSTRALIAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

**AGIC reached its third year milestone on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011. When one reflects on this relatively short time span in terms of an organisation's development and that launch of the tool is planned for the first quarter 2012, all involved can be justifiably proud of the progress made and this achievement.**

The management of the authorship of the scheme has been a significant logistical exercise and the appointment of Rick Walters as AGIC's Technical Manager in February was very timely and assisted the process considerably. Antony Sprigg, Ryan Signor and Linda Slechta, contracted through GHD to manage the program, worked diligently to ensure the tool development management process went as smoothly as possible.

The authorship of the sustainability assessment categories recently reached the final draft milestone in readiness for pilot testing on actual project trials. The peer reviewers and Global Review Panel have also completed their reviews of the pre pilot draft and author material is being updated to incorporate the resultant feedback.

In late June / early July 2011, AGIC plans to initially test the assessment categories on two project trials and the expressions of interest for these closed on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Once the first project trial milestone is completed the rating scheme will be market tested on 10-12 trials around Australia and expressions of interest for the second round of project trials close on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2011. Applications submitted by Foundation and Organisational Members of AGIC will have preference. Organisations considering an application need not be concerned if their project has some areas of weakness in relation to current sustainability practices, as the tool testing process does not require "leading edge" projects, and only an overview of the process may be published and not scoring results.

I would like to personally thank all the reviewers for their dedicated pro bono services and the members of the Global Review Panel for the hours involved in reading their reviews. I am also aware some authors exceeded their budget and I thank them for their on going commitment to make the world's first scheme a practical and relevant tool to drive innovation in infrastructure sustainability. I also thank the authors who provided a pro bono portion in their services; this was appreciated by the Board as it dealt with the tool development funding challenge.

I look forward to the completion of market testing and the national launch of the scheme in 2012.

While in the process of thanking people, ARUP deserves a special mention for the provision of the Sustainability Hub in Adelaide Street Brisbane where AGIC, The Green Building Council, Green Cross and City Smart all share with modest rent the second floor of the Commonwealth Bank Building. ARUP's initiative has greatly enhanced the synergy between these not for profit organisations.

Our volunteers are also very busy, and Laura Raby our volunteer coordinator, has completed the volunteer handbook which was recently endorsed by the Board and is currently being loaded onto the AGIC website. In addition, to allow people thinking of volunteering for a task, the AGIC website will have a list of tasks including a scope that need actioning.

Australian Green Infrastructure Council

Angela Reidy, AGIC's Education and Training Working Group Leader (E & T WG) and her team are very busy at present as they deal with the process of structuring how training will be delivered for teaching stakeholders how to self assess their projects using the sustainability assessment categories, and training independent verifiers who will be tasked to validate the self assessment if a national rating is sought. AGIC's Foundation Member Manidis Roberts is currently working on the determination of the final award descriptor and icon in preparation for the 2012 launch.

AGIC's Director Penny Townley is the Working Group Leader of our Client Needs and Marketing working Group (CNM WG) and the key focus of the group is now on the AGIC annual conference to be held in Melbourne on 7 October 2011. Penny has an opening for a few more members on the conference organising team, and if you would like to assist, please contact AGIC's Office Manager Liz Conway on lconway@agic.net.au.

Glenn Hedges has retired from his role as Secretary on the Board following Scott Lambert's appointment and is now actively leading the Technical Support Working Group (TS WG). One key role this working group has is to review the innovative case studies being submitted for display on the web based AGIC Knowledge Hub. I encourage organisations that have been implementing innovative solutions on infrastructure delivery to submit their case study for review and posting on the KHub website.

I would also like to welcome Gordon Piets to AGIC's staff. Gordon is a certified accountant and is currently working in a part time role to assist AGIC further develop its financial reporting systems. Gordon will eventually take responsibility for all AGIC's accounting functions and will be capably assisted by Liz.

Finally this is an exciting time for AGIC as it works toward the launch of the national sustainability rating scheme for infrastructure. The Board and I look forward to the new platform the AGIC national sustainability framework the AGIC scheme will provide. The national framework will assist the facilitation of a cultural change in the way Australia's infrastructure will be delivered in the future.

**Doug Harland**

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CALLED FOR TRAINERS

Expressions of interest will be sought for suitable applicants to be trained to deliver education workshops on the AGIC Assessment Category Training Manuals. The EOI will be posted on the AGIC website in the week commencing 20 June.

### MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

#### AGIC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Our Brave New World – where metrics drive sustainability*  
Friday 7 October 2011  
Hotel InterContinental, Melbourne

You're invited to hear the investment and business sectors view of the AGIC rating tool and get an in-depth overview of the rating criteria across:

- The state of play in the industry
- How and why the criteria were chosen (what research was done)
- Case studies and
- How the rating tool will transform the industry.

Don't miss this opportunity and note this date in your diary.

### LATEST FOUNDATION MEMBER

AGIC would like to recognise the latest Foundation Member – Freehills.

**Freehills**

Freehills has been recognised as a Foundation Member for their contribution to the preparation of legal documents and advice to AGIC.

### NEW MEMBER

AGIC is pleased to welcome the following new member:

#### Northrop Consulting Engineers

Northrop's mission is to deliver innovative and creative design solutions to our valued clients and build a stimulating environment where our people can grow to their full potential.

### AGIC OUT & ABOUT

#### March

- SMART Infrastructure Summit, Parliament House, Canberra
- Queensland Infrastructure Summit, Brisbane
- AGIC Breakfast Symposium, Brisbane
- Queensland Government Revival Forum, Brisbane
- Build it Back Green forum, Brisbane

#### May

- AGIC CIEAM Workshops: Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney
- Cigre Powerlink Conference, Brisbane
- Canberra Leaders Consultative Forum
- Urban Congestion Conference, Sydney
- Flood of Ideas Forum, Brisbane
- Roads Australia Lunch, Brisbane

# SUSTAINABILITY RATING TOOL DRAFT BEING PREPARED FOR PILOT TRIALS

AGIC's Sustainability Rating Tool is nearing completion as a draft ready for trialing. The category authors have completed their work including:

- Finalised Theme and Category definitions
- Described the 'State of Play' for sustainability practices within their category
- Provided case study information
- Developed assessment criteria and benchmarks
- Provided evidence requirements
- Provided background information and guidance material

At four milestones during the tool development, the category author material has been reviewed by technical peer reviewers and the Global Review Panel (GRP).

The GRP is a select group of seven industry experts whose role is to review the rationale, consistency and congruity between categories, the relevance of content and usability of the overall tool as it proceeds through the development phase.

AGIC's Technical Manager, Rick Walters commented that "AGIC is pleased with the effort put in by category authors, peer reviewers and the GRP. We have some work to do to collate and prepare the tool for the pilot trials, but it is encouraging to see it starting to take shape and look like a usable tool".

AGIC has started training industry in the draft tool through a series of AGIC – CIEAM seminars hosted in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney during May.

Planning for the pilot trials is progressing well. This will be a vital process to test the rating tool and then use the feedback to make it more usable and effective.

## PILOT TRIALS READY TO COMMENCE

**AGIC has received a very good response to its call for expressions of interest for the first round of pilot trials. Round one trials will involve two projects, one focusing on the construction stage and one focusing on operations.**

The trials will involve assessment using the draft AGIC rating tool in a workshop style process with project staff. Rick Walters, AGIC's Technical Manager, said that "We are keen to get the pilot trials underway and to 'get our hands dirty' testing the tool on real industry projects. This is when we start to find out which criteria work and which ones are 'a bridge too far (pun intended)'".

AGIC is currently reviewing the Eols in order to select the preferred projects to trial. Round one of the pilot trials starts in July.

Expressions of interest for round two of the pilot trials remain open until 1 August and AGIC encourages all member organisations to consider submitting projects.

**AGIC is pleased with the effort put in by category authors, peer reviewers and the GRP...**

**... is encouraging to see it starting to take shape...**



## SELL-OUT SUCCESS FOR AGIC'S BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM

**On Tuesday 12 April 2011, AGIC hosted a Breakfast Symposium "Innovative Materials and Understanding DTMR's New Recycled Materials for Pavement Specification" at the Sofitel Hotel in Brisbane. Peter Evans, Deputy Chief Engineer (Pavements, Materials & Geotechnical), described a range of recent road and pavement innovations and introduced the workings of Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads new specification MRTS-35 "Recycled Materials in Pavements".**

The event also featured a range of newly commercialised and environmentally sustainable building materials providing significant carbon reduction opportunities for infrastructure providers and contractors now available in south east Queensland:

- CarbonLoc Composite's product range and application of carbon fibre technology,
- Alex Fraser's range of recycled road materials and online calculator linked to the new specification, and
- Wagners geopolymers concrete (marketed as Earth Friendly Concrete).

A capacity crowd of 150 industry professionals, including material suppliers, contractors, consultants, academics, state government and regional council engineers participated in a stimulating and informative panel discussion involving all presenters.

AGIC would like to extend their appreciation to Thiess recognising their organisational support was integral in bringing the Symposium to fruition.

AGIC thanks the event's Key Sponsors Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads and Thiess, as well as Alex Fraser, Holcim, Loc Composites and Wagner for their support and contributions.



**To view presentation slideshows or photos from the morning, please see [www.agic.net.au/AGICEvents.htm](http://www.agic.net.au/AGICEvents.htm)**



## BUILD IT BACK GREEN

**AGIC participated in the “Build It Back Green” (BIBG) initiative hosted by Green Cross Australia in partnership with the Department of Environment and Resource Management at Queensland Parliament House in March.**

The BIBG aims to leverage disaster recovery efforts to maximise sustainability and community resilience outcomes. It seeks to catalyse green jobs and investment in infrastructure that is resilient, while empowering communities to influence investments.

One hundred representatives attended from corporations, government departments and non-government organisations.

The aim of the workshop was to define ideas and priorities for resilience in residential areas, infrastructure, schools, commercial, government and public buildings and in local communities. Prior to breaking into facilitated sessions delegates heard from leaders in New Orleans and Kansas who are overseeing the rebuilding efforts in those cities; the Minister for Environment and Resource Management, the Hon Kate Jones and also Michael Rayner (Smart State Council member and leading Queensland architect).

Nick Apostolidis and Penny Townley, both AGIC Directors facilitated the Infrastructure Stream at the BIBG event.

Infrastructure participants were asked to describe “What will an ideal outcome for this area look like?”

Some of the responses included:

- Infrastructure planned for sustainability
- Environmental values recognised early
- Material use optimised
- Infrastructure rebuilt in a way that values the quality of waterways and local environment
- Eco resilience built into system and standards
- Showcase infrastructure that reduces impacts and delivers greater resilience.

The fundamental challenge identified to achieving the outcomes across all streams was how to advance alternatives that advance better solutions, given the pressure for fast and low cost responses to disaster recovery.



Taking on board the ideal outcomes and key challenge each group was asked to identify priorities for action.

In the infrastructure area participants suggested:

- Selecting three to five exemplar eco-resilient infrastructure projects based on an assessment of the local government infrastructure priorities delivered to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA)
- Work with QRA and local government stakeholders to select the demonstration projects
- Ensure that demonstration projects are evaluated using the AGIC sustainability rating tool. (agreed by participants after AGIC Directors outlined the tool which was being developed).

The outcomes of the workshop were tabled to Graeme Newton, Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Reconstruction Authority who was in attendance at the workshop during the morning sessions.

Photos courtesy of Department of Environment and Resource Management.

**AGIC was one of several partners supporting Green Cross in the workshop. Other groups included the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management, the Property Council of Australia, the Alternative Technology Association, the Green Building Council of Australia, the Queensland Conversation Council, and Habitat for Humanity Australia. Participating organisations included Tourism Queensland, Lend Lease, Suncorp Insurance, GHD, ARUP, AECOM, Stockland, Ergon Energy, Energex, Brisbane Housing Company and the Queensland Council of Social Services.**

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Lena Wardlaw

**When Lena joined the AGIC team:**  
October 2010.

**What her role encompasses:**

Knowledge Hub Coordinator as well as a member of the Technical Support Working Group. As materials are contributed to the K-Hub, I determine who in the TSWG is available and experienced in the topic/theme submitted and coordinate the review of those contributions (to ensure the material complies with the contribution criteria).

If deemed suitable, I arrange for the contribution to be uploaded and promoted on the Knowledge Hub.

**What motivated Lena to join AGIC:**

I am studying for my Masters of Project Management at QUT. One of the subjects was "Sustainable Practice in the Built Environment". It really opened my eyes as to what could be done to improve the places we live and work in. I was very interested in the subject but thought I'd have no chance of a career in that direction as my background is electronics engineering.

One of our guest lecturers was David Hood, and when I told him I was keen to get involved in this field, he suggested I volunteer for AGIC.

**Where she works:**

Full time mum of two children (1 and 3 yrs old) and works part time for ASI (Advanced Systems Integration)

**The most interesting project on which Lena has worked:**

In the UK I worked as a customer support engineer for an avionics company. I got to travel the world visiting airlines to help improve the reliability of their aircraft's landing gear control systems. I loved that job!

**Where Lena lives:**

Springwood

**Favourite past time is:**

Mountain biking

**Favourite holiday destination:**

Anywhere with babysitters

**Favourite food:**

Chocolate of course!

## AGIC CIEAM WORKSHOP SERIES

The AGIC – CIEAM workshop series has proven to be very popular with more than 75 people attending the three events.

The feedback received has been very positive with attendees saying they now had a greater understanding of the AGIC Sustainability Rating Scheme and what benefits the scheme would bring to their business.

With presentations from Professor David Hood, Chairman of AGIC along with Dr Tony Stapledon and Professor Arun Kumar, attendees were able to gain knowledge both from an academic and business point of view.

The workshops featured a presentation regarding the current position and case studies relating to Sustainability in Infrastructure. Glenn Hedges, AGIC Director and Environmental Engineer at Thies addressed the issue in Brisbane; Rob Turk from Arup spoke in Melbourne and Rick Walters, AGIC's new Technical Manger spoke about assessment categories and methodologies.

A great deal of synergy was generated by the collaboration between AGIC and CIEAM and AGIC looks forward to further opportunities for future collaboration.



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## FOUNDATION MEMBERS

