



Media release

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World's first sustainability rating scheme closer to completion

The future of Australian infrastructure is looking greener, with the world's first sustainability rating scheme being one step closer to completion.

The rating scheme will establish sustainability performance benchmarks and reward infrastructure projects and organisations that achieved high outcomes against these benchmarks.

The Australian Green Infrastructure Council (AGIC) was formed in 2007 to fill a vital gap in ensuring all the nation's built environment is sustainable, through the development of a rating scheme.

AGIC CEO, Doug Harland said it is imperative that national infrastructure is designed, constructed and operated within a nationally recognised and consistent sustainability framework.

"The development of the scheme is well underway and will drive market transformation through education, training, advocacy and recognising and awarding leading sustainable practices," Mr Harland said.

"The rating scheme has now entered a critical stage of its development, with the appointment of category authors."

To date, a series of workshops have been held to develop seven categories and 28 subcategories to assess sustainability from economic, social and environmental viewpoints.

AGIC received an excellent response from advertisements for authors of all 28 subcategories, and is about to appoint successful tenderers.

While the authoring contracts could start as early as May 2009, Mr Harland said the letting of tenders will require funding support. AGIC is seeking support from all Australian governments and industry.

"With the imminent announcement of major infrastructure funding, we're hoping the development of the rating scheme will be one of the submissions funded by government, as funding is critical to the scheme's planned launch of July 2010," Mr Harland said.

Once the authorships of the categories are completed, the last step will include two sets of project trials (to test and fine-tune the tools) before applying the rating scheme to existing assets and new infrastructure projects throughout Australian.

Successful tenders will be announced on 5 May 2009. For more information, visit AGIC's website www.agic.net.au

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