

# Innovative Industrialised Buildings: Accelerating the Mainstreaming of Building Manufacture in Australia

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Accelerating the growth of building manufacturing in Australia presents significant opportunities for the building sector. Not only will it create highly coveted jobs, increase profits and building throughput, streamline the supply chain, and reduce environmental pressures, it will also provide valuable transition opportunities for the automotive and manufacturing sectors. Such opportunities are being taken up around the world, especially in our region with some US\$45 billion invested in building manufacture in the Asia-Pacific region in 2012.

The manufacture of buildings has the potential to provide high quality and cost-effective houses, apartments, office blocks, and a range of other building types, utilising the technologies, materials, design know-how and construction experience currently in the building, automotive, and manufacturing sectors. As with a number of other advanced industries, such as renewable energy technology, the current slow recognition of the value that can be created through the manufacture of buildings in Australia may lead to a significant missed opportunity.

It is clear that if Australia does not seize the opportunity of building manufacturing, foreign companies will certainly continue to bring it to market, which if not harnessed as part of the sector's overall development could lead to job losses across the building sector and its supply chain. In practice however, the shift to aggregating construction of buildings in large-scale dedicated facilities, to be transported to site for erection, presents a number of challenges that will require innovative approaches to overcome.

## Objectives

This project will build on previous SBEnrc findings by focusing on two key issues hindering the acceleration of building manufacture in Australia, namely: perceptions of performance and barriers to finance. When approaching perceptions of performance, the project will undertake a detailed review of as-constructed manufactured buildings in Australia to provide a third party comparison to onsite methods. When approaching barriers to finance, the project will develop a comprehensive high level report to provide a clear, unbiased and robust overview of the various barriers and existing precedent for overcoming them, to inform a stakeholder engagement process with the finance sector to ensure such options are being considered.

## Industry Outcomes

The project seeks to reduce the influence of two key barriers associated with accelerating the mainstreaming of building manufacture in Australia, which is set to deliver significant wide-spread value. The building sector will see greater profits and throughput, clients will see buildings constructed much faster with greater returns on investment, workers will see significantly improved workplace conditions and buyers will see higher quality homes become more affordable. The SBEnrc has the opportunity to be instrumental in the industrialisation of an entire sector in Australia that will unlock significant economic, social and environmental benefits, quite a contribution to our nation!!



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