

SBEnc Project 2.76 Sustainable Procurement Communications #1

There is an increasing community expectation to support sustainable products and practices through the billions spent by government and industry in their commercial operations. It is challenging to identify the products or services that genuinely support sustainable development goals, achieve the targeted outcomes and concurrently represent value-for-money in achieving those goals.

Sustainable procurement involves a high degree of collaboration and engagement between all parties in a supply chain, which needs to be monitored to track the achievement of sustainability outcomes.

The Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre (SBEnc) Australia has just kicked off an industry-driven research project which will respond to identified industry challenges by examining key issues across the procurement life cycle (i.e., planning, sourcing, and contract management) to improve environmental, social and economic sustainability outcomes in the housing, building and infrastructure sectors in Australia.

“The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt all over the world, with major shocks to economies, including Australia’s. Through our industry-driven research projects, SBEnc is uniquely positioned to address industry challenges including the recovery and stimulus of Australian industry post COVID. This *Sustainable Procurement* project is particularly important as it enhances traceability and transparency of supply chain management and reinforces our path towards the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a post COVID-19 setting” said Professor Keith Hampson, CEO SBEnc.

Davina Rooney, CEO Green Building Council of Australia and Chair of the Project Steering Group said that, “There is overwhelming support from industry to eliminate carbon emissions from buildings and construction to meet our obligations under the Paris Agreement, and to put a stop to unsustainable changes to our climate. The Sustainable Procurement Project is an important part of the solution to help us make real change at the supply chain level.”

The key industry outcomes of the project include:

- A systematic study of key issues across the procurement life cycle to improve sustainability outcomes in the housing, building and infrastructure sectors in Australia;
- An approach to identify and define the value of sustainable procurement to meet organisational targets, across environmental, social, economic and governance dimensions;
- A sustainable procurement framework for clients that recognizes the role of stakeholders, organisational targets, sustainability value tracking, existing technologies and rating tools, supply chain engagement and procurement life cycle; and
- A guide for sustainable procurement for clients that defines best practice for monitoring, managing and improving sustainability outcomes within supply chains offer tools, approaches and case studies to assist in implementing the processes recommended.

Case studies will be conducted in selected sustainability themes such as green concrete, recycled content (beyond concrete material), Modern Slavery Act, regional participation, and marginalised groups.

The project is well shaped by industry through Main Roads Western Australia, Western Australia Department of Finance, Western Australia Department of Communities, Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Department of Environment and Science, Transport for NSW, BGC, Stockland, Aurecon and GHD with a research team from Western Sydney University, Griffith University and RMIT.

“Industry needs is the core of this project. The project will draw on Australian and international best practices and theories and work closely with the industry partners to help to build a sustainable future for the Australian housing, building and infrastructure sectors” said Associate Professor Yingbin Feng at Western Sydney University, Project Leader.

More information about this project can be found at <https://sbenrc.com.au/research-programs/2-76/>

For enquiries about this project and opportunities to participate please contact Associate Professor Yingbin Feng at y.feng@westernsydney.edu.au.