SBEnrc Project Progress – Quarterly Report
01 April 2026 to 16 August 2026

Project Number & Title	Benchmarking and Scaling-up Australia's Circular Economy Practices
PSG Chair	Ashleigh Morris
Project Leader	Atiq Zaman, Curtin University

Overall Project Health and Delivery	Major issues or delays	☐	Minor issues or delays	☐	Progressing as planned	☒

Comments on project health/delivery:
The project is progressing as per planned milestones and deliverables.

Progress against milestones/deliverables:

No.	Description	Milestones/ Deliverables	Planned due date	Completed/ forecasted
1	PSG#1 Project Commencement	Milestone	11/05/2026	Completed 11/05/2026
2	PSG #2 – case study progress Preliminary literature review Ethics approval Quarterly Report 1	Milestone / Deliverables	10/08/2026	Completed 17/08/2026
3	PSG #3 – Half Year Review Industry Partner Engagement Sessions	Milestone	26/10/2026	As planned
4	PSG#4 – Quarterly Report 3 Case Study Summary Presentations as agreed by SBEnrc Draft Uptake and Impact Report Draft Research Report	Deliverables	15/02/2026	As planned
5	PSG #5 – Half Year Review Industry Dissemination Outputs (Project Website) as agreed by SBEnrc Skills Development / Knowledge Transfer/Industry Adoption Plan (Item 2.7) as agreed by SBEnrc Draft Final Industry Report	Deliverables	17/05/2027	As planned
6	PSG #6 (Final) – Quarterly Report 5 Final Industry Report (graphically designed and technically reviewed 16–24-page Industry Report). Final Research Report Communications package (includes YouTube video) Final Uptake and Impact Report	Deliverables	30/09/2027	As planned

Progress <u>this quarter</u>:

- PSG #1 was held on 11 May 2026 via Microsoft Teams, chaired by Ashleigh Morris (Coreo), with representation from industry, government and research organisations across Queensland, New South Wales, and Western Australia.
- The Project Leader, Atiq Zaman, presented the project overview, building on the learnings of predecessor project 1.10.4 (which identified inconsistencies in circular economy (CE) taxonomy and practices). Three research objectives were outlined – benchmarking, integration of CE principles and R-strategies, and evaluation of decision-making factors – alongside four anticipated industry outcomes (an actionable policy tool, a material reuse system protocol, evidence-based CE value propositions, and replication guidance for national scaling).
- Three case studies were confirmed for the project:

    - **Atlas Precast (WA)** – co-creating circular design standards for precast systems, focused on design for disassembly and reuse, modularisation, material efficiency, and low-carbon binder/alternative materials.
    - **Transport for NSW (NSW)** – benchmarking existing reuse, refurbishment and recycling practices across the NSW rail and transport network against national and international best practice.
    - **Queensland Government (QLD)** – subject to a data-privacy agreement; detailed findings will be managed through a dedicated working group and the Research and Utilisation Committee, with generic findings released at project completion.

- Progress to date includes: a systematic literature review now underway across Curtin University, RMIT and The University of Queensland; initial engagement meetings held with Transport for NSW and the Queensland Government; and Curtin University has processed the ethics clearance application and already secured the application and data can be collected based on the Curtin's approve ethics approval.
- International and sector connections were noted, including a completed SBEnrc-specific session at the World Sustainable Built Environment Conference (June 2026), the Global South Nexus International Circular Economy Conference (February 2027, WA), an invited keynote at the Zero Waste Forum (Turkey), and linkages to COP31 and global CE policy dialogue via the UN Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (UN-CEET).
- Two circular economy side events at the upcoming COP31 in Istanbul have been proposed at the Australin Pavilion, linking circular economy, zero waste and energy transition will be covered, where SBEnrc project will be highlighted.
- A leadership transition at SBEnrc was noted, with Keith Hampson transitioning out of the CEO role and Will Hackney assuming the position going forward.

Fresh engagement/investment/collaborations this quarter

- Atlas Group (Atlas Precast/Atlas Building), Karim Yngstrom – case study partner, co-developing circular design standards for precast systems.
- Transport for NSW, Adrian Dawson, Antony Straubhaar, Raz Guirguis and Grace Chan – case study coordination meeting held ahead of PSG #1 to confirm scope and stakeholder access.
- Queensland Government, coordinated via Will Hackney and Atiq Zaman – confidentiality and data-sharing arrangements (including NDAs) being progressed to support case study access.
- DevelopmentWA, John Clifton – flagged a strategic communications opportunity linking the project to current government and industry discussions on local sourcing and recovered-material substitution.
- Think Brick Australia / Concrete Masonry Association of Australia / Roofing Tile Association, Cathy Inglis and Jack Gill – national manufacturer engagement on circular content and R-strategies.
- Prefab Council Australia (PCA), launched it's WA chapter and the project lead is looking possible collaboration with the newly form PCA National Professional Body.

Project outputs and communications to date:

- A Communications and Dissemination Matrix has been established and shared with the PSG, capturing confirmed and planned channels including the World Sustainable Built Environment Conference (June 2026), the Global South Nexus International Conference (February 2027, WA), the WA Government 2026 Waste & Resource Recovery Conference – 'Beyond Waste 2026' (abstract due 25 May 2026), the Asia Pacific Circular Economy Hotspot (September 2026), the Zero Waste Forum (Turkey), COP31 engagement via UN-CEET, and the World Circular Economy Forum (India, proposed).
- Planned outputs also include peer-reviewed publications arising from the literature review and regular LinkedIn dissemination posts.
- Student and early-career researcher involvement has been confirmed across all three university partners: Dona Iresha Gurusinghe and Mohana Motiei (RMIT), coordinated UQ involvement (Paul Matthew and Charlotte Kessler), and Curtin involvement (Atiq Zaman and Shengping Li).