PSG#1 - P1.11.4 Benchmarking and Scaling-up Australia's Circular Economy Practices

Date: Tuesday 5th May 2026

Time: 12.00pm – 1.30pm AWST

Attendance:

- Ashleigh Morris (Corro) - Meeting Chair
- Atiq Zaman (Curtin University) – Project Lead
- Shengping Li (Curtin University)
- Keith Hampson (SBEnrc)
- Will Hackney (SBEnrc)
- Karim Yngstrom (ATLAS Precast)
- Peter Vanderaa (QLD Treasury)
- Meghan Cowling (QLD Dept of Transport & Main Roads)
- Louis Bettini (Main Roads Western Australia)
- Les Marchant (Main Roads Western Australia)
- Chris Skantzos (Main Roads Western Australia)
- Rainie Zhang (WA Dept of Housing and Works)
- John Clifton (DevelopmentWA)
- Adrian Dawson (Transport for NSW)
- Raz Guirguis (Transport for NSW)
- Grace Chan (Transport for NSW)
- Antony Straubhaar (Transport for NSW)
- Mark Hindmarsh (Sunshine Coast Council)
- Paige Hegarty (Westport)
- Jack Gill (Think Brick)
- Cathy Inglis (Think Brick)
- Joanne Vanselow (Austroads)
- Dona Iresha Gurusinghe (RMIT)
- Mohana Motiei (RMIT)
- Usha Iyer-Raniga (RMIT)
- Charlotte Kessler (University of Queensland)
- Paul Matthew (University of Queensland)

Actions

1. **Market Shift Towards Local Sourcing:** Explore and report on the current shift in the market towards locally sourced and recovered materials as an alternative to imported products and share an update at the next PSG meeting. (Atiq Zaman)
2. **Industry Engagement on Material Shortages:** Identify and engage with stakeholders or government bodies currently discussing material shortages and substitution opportunities and consider inviting them to participate in future project discussions. (Atiq Zaman, Will Hackney, Keith Hampson)
3. **Communication and Dissemination Opportunities:** Add the World Circular Economy Forum in India to the project's communication and dissemination plan and coordinate potential SBEnrc representation at the event. (Atiq Zaman)
4. **Queensland Case Study Confidentiality:** Clarify and establish the process for handling confidentiality and dissemination of findings from the Queensland case study, including

consideration of NDAs or other mechanisms, and communicate this to the research team. (Atiq Zaman, Will Hackney)

Key Comments

Project Steering Group Roles and Terms of Reference: Keith Hampson provided an overview of the Project Steering Group's terms of reference, emphasising the responsibilities of members and the chair, and highlighted the collaborative nature of the group, with Ashleigh Morris and Will Hackney supporting the explanation and inviting questions from participants.

Project Aims, Objectives, and Research Approach: Atiq Zaman presented the aims, objectives, and research approach for the SBEnrc circular economy project, detailing the benchmarking of practices, integration of principles, and evaluation of decision-making factors, with input from Ashleigh Morris and Will Hackney regarding the project's direction and milestones.

Case Studies and Stakeholder Engagement: Atiq Zaman described three case studies in Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland, outlining their focus areas, stakeholder groups, and the privacy constraints affecting the Queensland case study.

1. **WA Precast Case Study:** The Western Australia case study, in collaboration with Atlas Precast, aims to co-create circular design standards for precast systems, focusing on modularisation, material efficiency, low-carbon mix design, alternative materials, and long-term durability, with stakeholders including designers, manufacturers, engineers, architects, builders, clients, regulators, and recyclers.
2. **NSW Transport Case Study:** The New South Wales case study targets optimising material reuse and asset lifecycle value within the NSW rail network, benchmarking existing reuse, refurbishment, and recycling practices against national and international best practices, and involving stakeholders such as Transport for NSW, Sydney Rail, suppliers, asset managers, engineers, standards bodies, and contractors.
3. **Queensland Case Study Privacy:** Due to a data privacy agreement, details of the Queensland case study will not be shared publicly, but core partners and members of the working group will have access, with Will Hackney confirming that researchers will adhere to agreed protocols and NDAs as necessary.

Project Progress and Ethics Clearance: Atiq Zaman updated the group on project progress, including literature reviews, stakeholder engagement, ethics clearance applications, and preparations for upcoming quarterly reports, with Curtin University leading the ethics approval process and Ashleigh Morris confirming the timeline for future meetings.

Communications and Dissemination Plan: Atiq Zaman and Will Hackney led the discussion on the communications and dissemination plan, highlighting upcoming conferences, forums, publication strategies, and opportunities for industry engagement, with Usha Iyer-Raniga and John Clifton raising points about international forums and the need to address material shortages in supply chains.

Future Actions and Meeting Schedule: Ashleigh Morris and Will Hackney confirmed the next Project Steering Group meeting date, summarised the main action to explore local sourcing in supply chains, and encouraged ongoing collaboration and input from all stakeholders between meetings.