PSG#2 - P2.11.5 Sustainable Procurement for Modern Methods of Construction

Date: Tuesday 4th August 2026

Time: 9.30am – 11.00am AWST

Attendance:

- Davina Rooney (Green Building Council) - Meeting Chair
- Yingbin Feng (Western Syndey University - Project Lead
- Karmin Yngstorm (Atlas Precast)
- Josh Fearnley (Atlas Precast)
- Aaron Dove (WA Dept of Housing and Works)
- Greg Lawrence (WA Dept of Housing and Works)
- Mohamed Abdellah (Transport for NSW)
- Louis Bettini (Main Roads Western Australia)
- Shakeeb Zamir (Main Roads Western Australia)
- Colleen McDonald (Main Roads Western Australia)
- Alexander Taylor (Australian Department of Defence)
- Vasilios Papastamoulis (Curtin University)
- Tiendung Le (RMIT)
- Will Hackney (SBEnrc)
- Grace Martini (SBEnrc)

Notes

Project Overview and Objectives: Yingbin Feng and Davina Rooney outlined the project's aim to examine how sustainable procurement and market signals can enable wider adoption and scaling of modern methods of construction (MMC) across housing, building, and infrastructure sectors, with a focus on procurement-led enablers, non-price evaluation, and workforce transition.

Case Study Design and Discussion: Yingbin Feng, Davina Rooney, Will Hackney, Karim, Aaron, and other participants discussed the design and focus of three case studies targeting sustainable procurement for MMC in public infrastructure, public housing/building programmes, and from a supplier perspective, with active feedback and questions from industry and government representatives.

1. **Case Study 1: Public Infrastructure:** The first case study, led by Transport for New South Wales with participation from Main Roads WA and Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, focuses on how public infrastructure clients can use procurement to de-risk and enable MMC adoption, examining procurement strategies, tender documentation, evaluation criteria, contract mechanisms, and post-award reporting.
2. **Case Study 2: Public Housing and Building Programmes:** The second case study, led by Queensland Treasury and Department of Housing and Public Works, investigates how procurement structures can support MMC delivery at scale in public housing, with a programme-level approach examining pipeline aggregation, panel arrangements, specifications, long-term supply partnerships, and non-price criteria such as whole-of-life value and local manufacturing.
3. **Case Study 3: Supplier Perspective:** The third case study, with Atlas as the lead industry partner, explores how procurement certainty and structural incentives influence supplier investment in

MMC, considering factors such as tender structure, evaluation weightings, risk allocation, pipeline visibility, and the impact of private developer requirements.

Industry and Government Feedback: Participants including Davina Rooney, Karim, and Aaron raised questions about demonstrating sustainable performance in MMC case studies, early supplier engagement, managing probity, and the need for frameworks to support early contractor involvement, with suggestions to examine international examples and address challenges in standardisation, social procurement, and market readiness.

Interim Literature Review Findings: Mohamed Abdellah, Vasilios, Tiendung Le, and others presented key findings from the interim literature review, highlighting Australia's developing but fragmented MMC landscape, regulatory and policy gaps, market structure and demand signals, procurement strategies, non-price criteria, and workforce transition challenges.

Discussion on Policy, Market Influence, and Implementation Challenges: Davina Rooney, Aaron, Josh Fearnley, and others debated the role of government as a market shaper versus influencer, the need for demand certainty, and the challenges in shifting industry and buyer attitudes towards MMC, with agreement on the importance of government procurement in driving market change.

Government's Role in Market Shaping: Aaron and Davina discussed whether government acts as a market shaper or influencer, noting that while government is a significant client in some sectors, the majority of housing is delivered by the private sector, and changing buyer attitudes is crucial for broader MMC adoption.

Demand Certainty and Supplier Investment: Josh Fearnley and Karim emphasised that guaranteed government procurement pipelines would enable industry investment in MMC and sustainability, while fragmented, project-by-project demand discourages long-term innovation and capability development.

Implementation and Attitudinal Barriers: Participants highlighted that despite policy support, implementation is hindered by industry inertia, traditional preferences (e.g. for double brick homes), and the need for government to provide leadership and certainty to facilitate market transition.

Collaboration, Communications, and Student Involvement: Yingbin Feng, Davina Rooney, and Will Hackney reviewed ongoing collaboration and communication activities, discussed the importance of practical uptake of research outcomes.

Actions

1. **Sharing Grey Research Materials:** Continue to share relevant grey research materials, reports, and practical examples that could be included in the literature review, either by uploading or dropping them in the chat. (All PSG Members)
2. **Identification of Additional Contributing Organisations:** Identify and suggest additional organisations that may contribute to or invest in the project and communicate these to the project team. (All PSG Members, led by Yingbin Feng)
3. **Dissemination Opportunities:** Provide information about upcoming internal briefings, industry events, conferences, webinars, or forums where the project can engage with relevant stakeholders. (All PSG Members)
4. **Inclusion of Recent ABCB Code Modernisation Review:** Ensure the latest ABCB code modernisation review publication and its five pillars are included in the literature review and project analysis. (Yingbin Feng)

5. **Support for PhD Research Participation**: Respond to Mohamed's request for interview participants with experience in collaborative contract models or sustainability and carbon emission reduction, or suggest suitable contacts from your organisation. (Yingbin Feng)
6. **Supplementing Evidence on Procurement Strategies:** Coordinate with Tiendung Le to arrange interviews or a workshop to gather additional evidence on procurement strategies and contract arrangements, supplementing the literature review with practical examples. (Tiendung Le, Shakeeb, Mohamed)