Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings

Existing homes and commercial buildings

Monday 14th October 2019

The Supply Chain Sustainability School welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the draft homes and commercial building's Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings reports.

The Supply Chain Sustainability School is supportive of the collaborative Commonwealth, State and Territory Government's Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings[1]. In particular, the Supply Chain Sustainability School is delighted and supportive of the inclusion of enabling policies focused on supply chain development, education and training.

Industry training and education by itself may only yield small returns in comparison to all other policy options in the draft reports, but no other policy option will be able to deliver the projected energy and carbon reduction returns without the enablement of industry information, training, education or capacity building and the Supply Chain Sustainability School is perfectly positioned to partner with government and industry to deliver these policy elements.

The Supply Chain Sustainability School would like to continue to work with Commonwealth, State, Territory and Local Governments as well as with the private and non-government organisations, to produce information and training resources that are freely available for individuals and organisations in the Australian built environment supply chain.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Supply Chain Sustainability School by e-mail at ceo@supplychainschool.org.au should you have any questions relating to this submission or the work of the Supply Chain Sustainability School.

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[1] Agreed to by Energy Ministers in February 2019, a national plan that aims to achieve zero energy and carbon-ready buildings in Australia, as a key initiative to address Australia's 40% energy productivity improvement target by 2030 under the National Energy Productivity Plan.

About the Supply Chain Sustainability School in Australia

www.supplychainschool.org.au

The Supply Chain Sustainability School was launched across Australia in 2015 to increase sustainability knowledge and competency along the construction and infrastructure supply chains. To support small-to-medium businesses the Supply Chain Sustainability School provides free e-learning, information and face-to-face training for construction and infrastructure suppliers, contractors and service providers. Companies signing up can access a wealth of free resources and tools to meet increasing sustainability demands and performance benchmarks, and to help build clever, collaborative and competitive construction and infrastructure sectors.

There are thousands of members who have registered for free to access the Supply Chain Sustainability School's learning resources, in every state and territory.

There are hundreds of different resources on the Supply Chain Sustainability School's website, including videos, case studies, documents to download, e-learning modules, links to different tools and initiatives, definitions and guides, with more added every month.

The Supply Chain Sustainability School is funded and supported by leading organisations including Action Sustainability Asia Pacific, Better Sydney, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Construction Skills Queensland, Cundall, Downer Group, Dulux Group, Edge Environment, FairSupply, Good Environmental Choice Australia, GHD, Global GreenTag, the Green Building Council of Australia, InfraBuild, the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia, John Holland, Laing O'Rourke, Landcom, Lendlease, Mirvac, Sydney Metro - NSW Government, Pointsbuild, the Property Council of Australia, RMIT University, Social Traders, Stockland, Sustainability Victoria and Supply Nation.

Report for achieving low energy existing homes

This report acts on the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings recommendation to consider options for improving existing residential buildings by proposing a suite of policy options to improve existing homes, including an analysis of their costs and benefits. The Supply Chain Sustainability School is particularly supportive of the enabling policy, Supply Chain Development.

> *"Strengthening industry training to improve the knowledge and skills of building professionals and trades on why and how to improve the energy performance of existing homes, will ensure consumers can access energy saving products. Further work should be undertaken to work with industry and strengthen industry training and skills." (page 4)*

The Supply Chain Sustainability School welcomes the draft report finings that "Stakeholders were supportive of information and guidance for households about what changes can improve existing homes, as well as the skills and training needed for industry" (page 70). As the Supply Chain Sustainability School is a provider of free online information it was of interest that the earlier consultation revealed that:

> *"Provision of information is important. But gaining access to that information is as big a barrier" (page 70)*

The Supply Chain Sustainability School is perfectly positioned to partner with government to develop and disseminate information as:

- It is a not for profit initiative funded and supported by leading organisations;
- It already houses training materials for industry throughout the supply chain that explain the opportunities and clear changes that can be made to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes;
- 75% of industry stakeholders in 2019 saw the Supply Chain Sustainability School as the go-to online resource for supply chain sustainability knowledge[2];
- It has thousands of subscribed stakeholders in the supply chain, including tradespeople, who have access to hundreds of free sustainability resources;
- It has established relationships with industry peak bodies and training organisations for the purpose of improving capability within the entire Australian built environment supply chain;
- Stakeholders are also able to access other free resources in addition to building energy efficiency using the same platform; and
- It has the capacity to ensure that training materials are continually maintained and improved into the future.

[2] "Supply Chain Sustainability School Industry research finding 2019" annual survey of members.

Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings: Coordinated Policy Options for Existing Commercial Buildings

The Supply Chain Sustainability School has chosen to only comment on the report in relation to the provision of information, training and education and supports experts on other areas within the report to also make submissions on relevant areas.

General comments

1. The Supply Chain Sustainability School supports the reports position that information and capacity building is an essential empowering policy element.
2. The Supply Chain Sustainability School supports the stakeholder feedback that "Increasing awareness and information availability through education and data sharing was generally well received as an option, as capacity building that could support other policy options." (Stakeholder feedback 5.1.7 Information and capacity building, page 43).
3. The Supply Chain Sustainability School understands that sector specific education and guidance presents budget and resourcing constraints (Stakeholder feedback 5.1.7 Information and capacity building, page 43). This was a key driver behind the establishment of the Supply Chain Sustainability School a leading example of how a partnership model enables efficient and productive use of combined limited resources.
4. The Supply Chain Sustainability School understands that stakeholders desire information to simple (Stakeholder feedback 5.1.7 Information and capacity building, page 43). It also knows that making a sustainable choice is not always simple. Procurement professionals not only have to include energy in their decision-making criteria but other environmental, economic and social impacts as well. This is why broad training across many areas is so important. To use the example provided "Use LEDs", there are several other considerations including: What is the embodied and transportation impact? Was modern slavery used in the production of these LEDs? Does this purchase generate social value beyond the value of the LED? Is there a supply chain established to service/replace/repair this product in the future? Are there multiple suppliers of this product to mitigate the risk of delays if this supplier fails to deliver? Does this LED contain recycled materials? Is this LED recyclable in Australia?
5. Section 6.1.1 and Table 42 Information and capacity building: The lack of skills and capacity to address energy efficiency opportunities is not primarily caused by a lack of access to information or lack of issue awareness, it is caused by the dispersal of good information over multiple credible sources making key messages hard to find combined with ever expanding training and accreditation requirements branding any stand-alone or new area as burdensome. The Supply Chain Sustainability School is a partnership of key industry groups working together to curate quality accessible information in a free multi-professional online training platform. We strongly encourage government to partner with this existing group of entities to consolidate and incorporate rather than "expanding professional training programs and accreditation" (Page 51).
6. Table 42 Information and capacity building: There is an underlying tone to training and education that implies innovative practices must be instructed from government to industry. The potential impact of general information and education programs to inspire positive innovation and change from industry does not seem to be considered or valued.