

Tropical Green Building Network Steering (TGBN) Committee

Minutes: Meeting 1, Wednesday May 18th, 10am-11.30am, Advance Cairns Boardroom

Present:

Organisation	Representative present
Housing Industry Association (HIA)	Peter Collins
Building Designers Association of Queensland (BDAQ)	Sophie Barrett
Planning Institute of Australia (PIA)	Nikki Huddy
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)	Kathy Rankin
Advance Cairns/Australian Tropical Expertise (Austropex)	Nicky Swan
BlueScope Water	Nick Skutenko
Cairns Regional Council, Planning and Environment	Peter Boyd
Australian Institute of Architects	Edi Piagno (Total Project Group)
Engineers Australia	Daniel Kennett (ARUP)
James Cook University	Dr Lisa Law

Topic	Content	Actions
1. Introductions	Each representative introduced themselves and explained how their work relates to sustainable tropical architecture, building design or construction, or sustainable built environment.	
2. Overview of the TGBN	The TGBN was formed a couple of years ago and has evolved since then. It is primarily an information sharing and educational network, which aims to foster and encourage sustainability in the building sector and to raise community awareness of the importance of energy and water efficiency in the built environment. A full outline of the network is included in the attached outline document. <i>Role of the Steering Committee</i> The Steering Committee has been established to provide guidance to the network and to facilitate closer collaboration between the organisations represented on the committee. The Steering Committee will meet roughly every 3 months, and will meet for approximately 1.5 hours on each occasion, depending on the agenda items for the meeting. The Committee may also become a voice for the TGBN, and provide a means for channelling information and feedback to the Austropex project and the Sustainable TNQ group. The Committee may also engage with government on behalf of the TGBN by writing submissions on relevant matters or sending representatives to meetings or workshops of interest. The Committee will be an advisory group, as well as working on	Create a diagram representing the role of the Committee and what it does (Anna).

	specific projects where the need arises, and will also be a means of sharing information about the work that each organisation represented in involved in.	
3. Austropex and the TGBN Steering Committee (Nicky Swan)	Nicky Swan gave a short talk about how the Steering Committee can interact with the Austropex project. Austropex (previously the Australian Tropical Expertise Consortium) was initially funded by the Qld Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). The main tool is the website (http://www.austropex.com.au), which offers contact details for local professionals in a number of different sectors. The main aim of the project is to foster tropical expertise and support local industries in marketing tropical expertise. There is a 'Built Environment' sector section of the site, which while it doesn't support or promote sustainable tropical architecture specifically, the focus on local, tropical expertise fits in well with the TGBN's focus on sustainable building design and construction. For each sector group there is a reference panel. The reference group for the Built Environment sector currently includes Kathy Rankin, Lisa Law and Stewart Christie. At this stage, the main communication between the Austropex project and the Committee will be information exchange, and the opportunity for the Committee to provide feedback on the Austropex project and how it could be most useful to the sustainable building sector.	Send information out about the upcoming forum (Nicky)
4. Overview of Cairns Regional Council's Sustainable Building Design Policy, Guidelines and Checklist (Peter Boyd)	These draft documents have been created by Council to guide the design and construction of Council buildings. They are in line with Council's Corporate Sustainability Policy, the Sustainability Scorecard and the Climate Change Strategy. The policy is the overarching guidance document, the Checklist is a tool for ensuring the Policy is implemented, and the Guidelines aim to provide background information for Council staff and asset owners who don't know a lot about building design but who may be responsible to initiating projects and liaising with building designers. The Guidelines document may also be published for public use.	
5. Review of these Sustainable Building Design Documents	• Education of building users is very important to ensure energy efficiency in building operation • Ongoing monitoring of energy use and building operation would help to ensure efficiency • In the public version of the Guidelines could include asbestos/lead paint information • Need to communicate successes to the public, provide case studies of positive examples (retro-fitted buildings and ongoing cost savings etc) (NH) • Could produce fact sheets for specific projects to	Provide any further comments to: a.mcguire@cairns.qld.gov.au by 3 rd June at the latest.

	promote the benefits (NH) • Good idea to prioritise retro-fitting as this is the majority of Council's building work (NH) • If possible, get industry involved as they may be keen to help (e.g. BlueScope water may be keen to do water audits of Council buildings free of charge to improve water efficiency) (NSk) • It's good to have the building user involved in the process (DK) • Could use NABERS to assess energy efficiency (DK) • Green Star office refurbishment tool could be useful (DK) • What are the State Government's guidelines? Maybe we could learn from what they have done (DK) • In NZ, was successful when the sustainability aims of the project were outlined to the public before construction started to 'bring people along' on the journey • Is it possible to quantify operation v construction costs to demonstrate long term economic benefits of green buildings? (NK) • Can we promote Queenslander houses? They have stood the test of time and are passively cooled etc. (NS)	
6. Announcements	DLGP have \$45m of tenders coming up and are going to run workshops on how local businesses can tender for these contracts (KR) Grant Opportunity – energy saving and water saving initiatives (NS)	
7. Final comments	Will the Committee have a chairperson to chair meetings and speak publicly on behalf of the TGBN? The group decided to discuss this at the next meeting.	Add to the agenda of the next meeting
	Who else should be on the Committee? Industry – Ergon, MGF/GHD? (Although they're represented by Engineers Australia) Civil Engineers? Surveyors Institute?	Look into options for including a representative from the Surveyors Institute
8. Next meeting	Wednesday 24 August 10-11.30am at the Council Administration building, 119-145 Spence St (meeting room TBA).	

