

MISSION: GO GREEN BUILDING FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Invitation and Agenda

Meeting: No. 3 Wednesday 4th March 2009

Place: Cairns City Library meeting room 1

Time: 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm

The mission is to create a built environment that is healthy and sustainable. Builders, construction service professionals, building material manufacturers, retailers, government representatives, industry and community associations and other interested stakeholders are invited to come together to work as a group.

The facilitator for tonight's meeting is Sarah Hoyal. A 'contact register' is being circulated for you to complete. Please leave some business cards on the table near the door

Agenda items:

5.30 pm **Introduction** from everyone present and a short explanation of their interest/ activities in Green Building/ Development or Urban Sustainability.

5.45 pm **Discuss formalising our group and it's name:**

- Please refer to the notes below.
- Mission and Aim requiring revision by the group.
- Key Objectives requiring revision by the group
- Foundations and principles requiring revision by the group
- Our Interface Roles requiring revision by the group
- Name of the group (further suggestions and vote if ready)

6.30 pm **Information Presentation**

Gearing up for Green Home Loans (see: <http://www.environment.gov.au/greenloans/index.html>)

What can we expect and how can we get ready for it? Main speaker: Micheal Plunkett.

Michael Plunkett is a board member of the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA) and has been heavily involved in training the Green Home Loan auditors. Michael is also an accredited BERS assessor and his building consultancy provides a range of services in Estimating, Energy Ratings, Sustainable Housing and related Computer Software.

6.45 pm **New Projects for consideration**

- You are welcome to present a potential project.
- Insulation: Community awareness of the new \$1,600 rebate. Healthy and sustainable insulation choices available to retrofit houses.
- Green Theming the Cairns Home and Lifestyle Show
- Partnering with the AGDF and other organisations to bring speakers to Cairns.

7.15 pm **Current Projects:**

- Subgroups are provided with time during this session to discuss their progress amongst the subgroup. Subgroups to date are :
Rainwater tanks
Water Management
Grey Water Systems

7.30 pm Meeting close: Meetings are to be held on the first Wednesday of every month from 5.30 to 7.30 pm at the Cairns City Library. Next meeting 1st April 2009

Mission and Aim for revision

(An extract from the CETD adapted for our needs)

The twin imperatives of sustainability and global competitiveness involves fundamental changes to how we live, work, consume and how we organise our communities. In this sense, achieving sustainability in tropical built environments dictates that cities, communities and individuals:

- Touch more lightly on the environment and protect biodiversity
- Develop a shared understanding of practical sustainability for the tropics.
- Apply tropical sustainable principles to the urban, rural and regional built environments
- Generate new understanding through integrated research, action learning and practically focused partnerships
- Develop systems and processes for the wide and timely dissemination off best practice
- Develop opportunities for business, employment and growth for Far North Queensland

The mission is to convene a forum in line with our foundations, principles and key objectives and invite builders, construction service professionals, building material manufacturers, retailers, government representatives, industry and community associations and other interested stakeholders to come together to work as a group.

Key objectives for revision

- Attracting and maintaining representation from builders, construction service professionals, building material manufacturers, retailers, government representatives, industry and community associations and other interested stakeholders.
- Developing and maintaining a shared commitment to sustainable building practices through partnerships, collaboration and mutual learning.
- Recognising that people are involved in this initiative for personal and professional reasons.
- Maintaining an open dialogue focused on practical applications, demonstration projects, innovation and capability building.
- A strong engagement with the community on practical issues of concern, healthy cross-sectorial networking and mutual respect.
- Providing appropriate and timely ways of sharing, learning and developing practical solutions that grow people's and organisations capabilities
- Respecting and balancing competing interests and developing a forum as a neutral area for collaboration.
- Encouraging a high level of interaction and development of a shared agenda
- Supporting processes for policy reform for sustainability in tropical environments.

In line with the key objectives a priority was placed on directions that the group should take at the inaugural meeting held on the 12th of November 2008. They are as follows:

1. The promotion of green design, building, materials and services to the construction industry and public.
2. Assistance to industry stakeholders to identify opportunities and economic benefits of promoting green building materials, adopting green building practices and helping to manage its take up and implementation.
3. Public education via newspaper, Cairns Home Show display, local Councils, seminar and public information delivery events etc.

Equal 4th

4. Construction industry education using partners i.e. HIA, MBA, Master Plumbers, TAFE, Apprenticeship training, Owner Builder Courses, BDAQ etc.
4. Representation for dialogue with government such as the Dept. of Infrastructure and Planning for areas such as the Building Codes and Queensland Development Codes and tropical suitability, success and failings.

5. Recognition, support and promotion of building projects including new and renovated buildings.
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6. Liaison, support and project partnering opportunities to secure funding and government grant opportunities.
6. Community engagement programs into urban design and neighbourhood renewal projects.
7. Promotion of initiatives by industry and government such as the HIA Greensmart programme and Qld Gov. Smart Housing programme.
8. Information presentation targeted to industry stakeholders such as Q Build, and larger construction companies.
9. Support and promotion of organisations outside of the region by providing a marketing and promotion conduit for their activities i.e Australian Green Development Forum and Green Building Council of Australia.
10. Liaison with similar group/s in the Townsville Region including partnering to sponsor industry events and speakers.

Foundations and Principles for revision

- Mutual respect based on an appreciation of the different needs and expectations of members.
- An open and democratic structure and process.
- A place of neutrality that focuses on open collaboration, partnerships and learning.
- Initially the group shall be unincorporated and participants of the group shall not have formal membership or fees.
- Where consensus is required to provide direction for the group this will be conducted by the facilitator through a show of hands in a monthly meeting or the completion of a survey or written response for collation by the administrator. It may be decided that the survey remains unnamed by the participant.
- Participants shall nominate themselves to carry out the following functions for a period of 12 months and upon the anniversary of that appointment shall vacate to allow for a new nomination:
 - Group Facilitator
 - Administrator of meetings, agenda and network coordination
 - Group meetings minute taker
 - Group Spokesperson and press releases
 - Projects coordinator
 - Project sub-group leader
- The administrator shall maintain the network contact list and email addresses of the network. The mailing list is to only to be used by the administrator for the purposes of informing the participants of the activities of the group.
- Individual participants should refrain from using the email contacts provided by the network for personal promotion and advertising. The administrator may be used as the contact point for the dissemination of information to the people on the network list.
- Individual participants should refrain from making public or media comment on behalf of the group. The nominated group spokesperson shall perform this function and shall do so after issues that are to be made public have been decided by the group. The spokesperson for the group may delegate an expert to represent the group on behalf of the group and the spokesperson. For reasons that limit legal liability, the group may move to incorporate as a legal entity in 2010.

Our Interface Roles for revision

The group has synergy with the activities that fall within the auspice of related organisations. Below the organisations are identified and the mutual benefits of fostering relationships are defined:

FNQ Regional Sustainable Framework:

The framework is supported by the Cairns Chamber of Commerce and Advance Cairns. It has several core functions and the following detail describes some of those functions:

The pursuit and achievement of sustainability as the core focus of FNQ communities and institutions. To help align support for this across government, industry and community. To help facilitate and coordinate regional efforts that align with this goal. To identify what actions will best help deliver this and then help ensure they happen. Whilst the initiative is in part focused at that broader policy/institutional end, it is equally focused at achieving meaningful action.

The framework engages all industry and sectors in FNQ and our group will benefit the framework by maintaining our focus on the built environment. The framework may deliver tasks to the group that require expertise found within the group on built environment issues. The group may identify a built environment issue that needs the backing of the framework as it may relate to broader issues, government policy and industry support. The framework may also provide a partnering opportunity to host events as they relate to the sustainability of the built environment and urban design.

We have a number of participants in the group that are part of the framework.

Centre of Excellence in Tropical Design (CETD):

The centre is based in Townsville and represents North Queensland.

The centre is delivering a neutral environment for people to work collaboratively. It facilitates a growing awareness that living in tropical climates and landscapes has significant implications for the built environment and requires different and distinctive responses. The centre looks to champion North Queensland becoming an exporter of knowledge in tropical design and living in the Asia Pacific region. It recognises that employment opportunity is based on education, practical learning and design about sustainable construction and community building. The Memorandum of Understanding underlying the CETD is currently being finalised. They are looking to work under the auspice of another organisation which may be 'Sustainable Townsville'

Their last meeting was held on the 19th of February 2009 and addressed the star rating compliance models and the continued inappropriateness. This includes Burs Pro (most appropriate for QLD) Accurate and First Rate and the GBCA style ratings that are more comprehensive. A working group is being formed to address this in March. The other project of great interest to our group is the 'Wiki' that is an online website allowing for internet based collaboration through forums and blogs. The Wiki is in the process of being developed and can be seen at www.tropicaldesign.org/wiki.

CETD issues addressing the built environment have the opportunity of being very aligned with our group's issues. The synergy may be have benefit where there is a co-ordinated approach to address government policy on issues concerning the Queensland Development Codes and Building Codes Australia. Work can also be done together on issues such as the energy rating software. There may be an opportunity to use the Wiki that the CETD is developing for our own needs to communicate on issues that the subgroups are addressing and broader issues where the sharing of knowledge advances sustainable practice in the building industry. This is to our obvious benefit.

The administrator of our group has been emailing copies of our minutes to the CETD and in return we are receiving copies of the CETD minutes. We will endeavour to forge closer links with the CETD.

Cairns Regional Council Urban Design Advisory Board

The board has a broad representation from the building industry that is in place to assist Council. Emma Thirkell is a member of the board and will be expected to communicate relevant information to this group and provide feedback to the board where appropriate from our group.

Housing Industry Association (HIA)

The HIA has an information delivery session on Sustainable Building in March and we understand that this may become a regular event for the HIA Cairns office. We would look to provide the HIA with material that can be presented to the builders and clarity on some sustainable building practices where appropriate. We may also encourage the builders to become involved directly with our group or work through the HIA to have our group address issues and obstacles, assisting builders in their endeavour to produce sustainable houses.

Australian Green Development Forum (AGDF)

The Forum is primarily Brisbane based and there is an opportunity to partner with the Forum to host events and speakers in Cairns.

Naming the group for revision

The name of 'Go Green Build FNQ' was quickly devised in isolation to bring about the first meeting. We would now like to devise a new name in consultation with the group participants.

Definitions:

Network: A chain or system of interconnected or intercommunicating inmaterials things, points or people. To link together for sharing of data and the efficient use of resources. To communicate or foster relationships with a network of people for personal advantage.

Initiative: The power or ability to begin or to follow through energetically with a plan or task; enterprise and determination. A beginning or introductory step; an opening move: took the initiative in trying to solve the problem.

Forum: A public meeting or presentation involving a discussion usually among experts and often including audience participation.

Group: An assemblage of persons gathered or located together; an aggregation. A number of individuals considered together because of similarities.

Potential names:

1. Go Green Build FNQ Group
2. Green Building in the Tropics
3. Green Tropical Building
4. Building Green in the Tropics
5. FNQ Green Building
6. FNQ Built Environment
7. FNQ Green Urban Development
8. FNQ Green Tropical Building
9. FNQ Tropical Urban Development
10. FNQ Tropical Green Building
11. Tropical Green Built Environment
12. Tropical Green Building
13. Tropical Sustainable Building
14. Sustainable Tropical Building