

CONSTRUCT

MAGAZINE

Issue One 2026

April 2026

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CEO's Message



Recognition of professional behaviour and its promotion is what the AIB is all about. On the recognition front, I have also been delighted to see strong industry engagement with our 2026 professional excellence awards. We are tracking towards one of our best years ever after coming off a pretty good year in 2025. Our award program remains unique in the industry and stands out in the crowd for being the only program that focuses on how it was built, not what was built.

At its first meeting for 2026, the AIB Council reflected on the 2025 operations and achievements, which were promising in terms of the recovery of the operational excellence required of a professional body. Regrettably, our forecasted 2025/2026 financial result will be a sizeable deficit, after accounting for one-off legal costs and other related negative impacts arising from our need to defend a Fair Work Commission case. This weighs heavily on the Council and strengthens its resolve to improve operational excellence and focus on growth and sustainability.

To this end, Council spent some time considering a draft strategic plan for the 2026-2029 period, which will be out for wider member consultation later in Q2 of this year.

Activities in all our Chapters are ramping up again for 2026 and there are many great CPD events in the planning stage. Planning for our AIB – Constructing the Future™ webinar program is well advanced, with the first of the 2026 series to be launched in May.

Our editorial team have sourced some thought-provoking articles for this first edition of Construct, which I hope you will enjoy.

Robert Hunt
AIB CEO

A warm welcome to the first edition of Construct for 2026. The question on my mind as I started this year was what is in store for the industry and the AIB.

What is clear to me (and I'm sure to all readers of this message!) is that there will continue to be serious challenges for the industry. Compounding the pressures on workforce numbers, material costs, and regulatory hurdles are the supply chain disruptions and increased running costs caused by conflicts across the globe.

It is at times like this that the importance of professional networks and ethical professional practice is highlighted. This is the time when membership in a professional network is so important.

What has been encouraging for me since the start of the year is the interest in our credential, MAIB, and protected title of Chartered Building Professional. Our membership team has been inundated with membership enquiries, and our Chapters have had a steady stream of professional interviews to complete.

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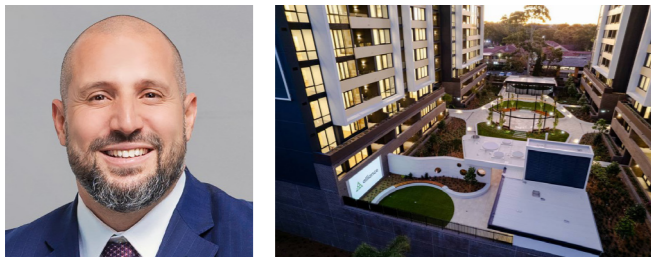
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The AIB is on the Move – Literally!

Great news for the team and members of the AIB, with details finalised for the Institute to take office space in the Master Builders Association of the ACT's building in Fyshwick, ACT.

The move to these new digs will provide enhanced workspace for the Institute's team and will support the Institute's push to become more closely aligned with the MBA.

With improved facilities, open-plan working space and access to substantial meeting facilities, this move is a positive step forward in our drive for operational excellence and growth strategies.

The team is currently working remotely and hopes to be in the new office arrangements by the end of May 2026.



Are Australian Construction Contractors Working Smarter?

By Matt Stevens, John Smolders and James Varrica

Most Australian construction firms have been working smarter despite many uncontrollable forces. Contractors – main and sub - continue to install infrastructure, shelter and processing facilities. They have responded to external chaos with savvy and practicality, such as labour shortages, supply chain uncertainties, opportunistic project owners, and inexperienced designers. This, while the industry suffers from internal entropy stemming from inconsistent enforcement of regulations that allows “grey” operators to compete.

Industry Structure and Dynamics

Overall, the industry’s dynamics are unique in combination. We are a customised service business, where most of the inputs are available to our competitors. Our product is the largest investment for individuals and a top-three corporate expense. The government wants more competitors and has been successful in achieving that, enabling rapid response to disasters (natural and man-made) and preventing unnecessary increases in customer prices. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has recorded an increasing number of construction organisations since 1996.

Comparing our industry to the other three goods-producing sectors, you will find below that construction has a distinctive set of characteristics.

Table 1. The Unique Nature of the Construction Industry

Goods-Producing Industry	Client Owns Product While in Process	Client Determines the Production Schedule	Product Design Created by Client	Highest Bankruptcy Rate	Highest Insolvency Deficiency \$ Average	Highest Employee “Lost Last Job” Rate	Highest % of Contract Employees	Economic Volatility Rank
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	4 th
Construction	Yes	Yes	Yes**	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	1 st
Manufacturing	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	3 rd
Mining, Oil & Gas	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	2 nd

*Compared to Australia’s 16 industries **Mostly, including Modifications and Variations to Standard Design (Stevens 2026)

work and the 8 states and territories over 100 quarters (3200 periods).

A Myriad of Uncontrollable Factors

There are many inputs that contractors do not control. The most evident one is the weather. There are dozens of others. Strategically, we observe three significant “uncontrollables” in construction contracting.

a. “Too Hot, Too Cold’ Work Availability

Chudik & Mau of the Dallas Federal Reserve in 2025 concluded that the construction is uniquely sensitive to interest rates, credit availability, and long-lead-time investment decisions - factors that amplify booms and busts more than commodity-price swings in mining or factory output in manufacturing.

Australian Construction Contractors have experienced over 100 recessions in construction since 2000. This is based on the 4 types of

99% of the more than 400,000 construction organisations do not travel outside 300 kilometres from their home office. Measured on a state/territory, work type and a quarterly basis, there were over 100 instances of two quarters of sequential decline.

b. Rising Industry Complexity

High-density residential, tall buildings, data centres, hospitals, defence, and renewable-energy infrastructure have grown. These routinely involve wind and energy engineering, complex facades, subterranean floors and multi-disciplinary coordination. These are factors linked to higher design and construction costs as reported by Arcadis, Rider Levett Bucknall, and Infrastructure Australia.

Oxford Economics and The Property Council repeatedly cite “rising project complexity” from new regulations, increased sustainability

demands, more customisation, and a growth in the number of megaprojects as key reasons for cost escalation and stagnant productivity. It is well discussed in professional circles and researched by academic teams that the process of constructing infrastructure, shelter, or processing facilities has increased. Factors such as rough increased project scale, stakeholder numbers, technological novelty, and regulatory changes. This has greatly affected resource (KLEMS) productivity.

AICD/Mandala Partners report that the cost of commonwealth regulatory complexity in 2025 shows construction industry growth in compliance-specific roles: Construction: 132%, Manufacturing: 51% and Agriculture: 50%

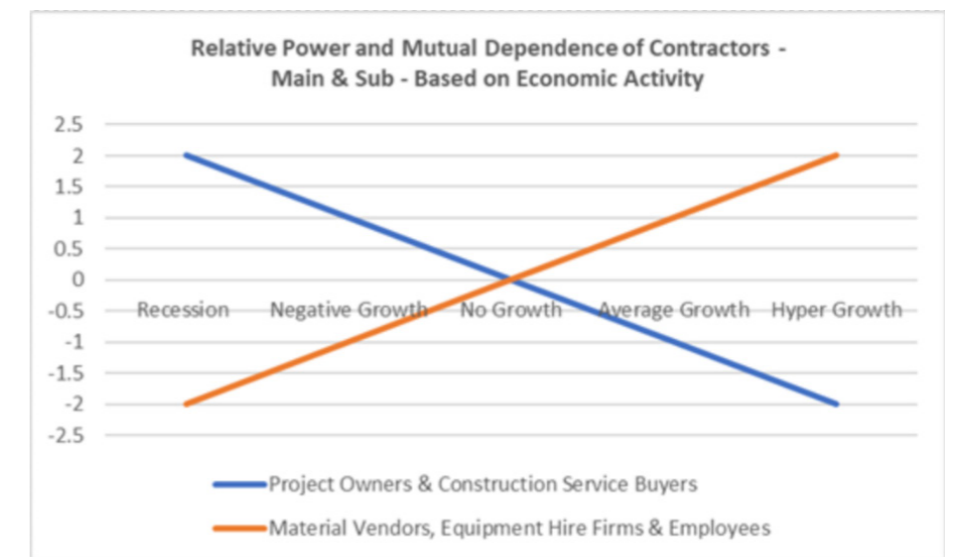
c. Behavioural Economics of Project Owners, Material Vendors, Equipment Hire Yards, Employees, and Lower Quartile Competitors.

A 2025 report from the Australian Constructors Association (ACA) identifies many project owner behaviours that “whipsaw” builders and trade contractors. Our takeaway is that an orderly process driven by predictable steps is not often followed. In boom times, project owners rush to deliver design documents and approvals, relying on a figuring-it-out-later philosophy and many “hurry up and wait” instructions. In a slow economy, negotiating tactics take over with multiple bids, what-if pricing and shopping for better tenders. Time is on the developer’s side. False deadlines do not make construction professionals productive or trusting.

Our recent research shows builders and trade contractors are continually “squeezed” by Project Owners,

Material Vendors, Equipment Hire Firms, and Employees, depending on the state of the construction economy. It is a one-way street of more demands; each is a rational economic actor. See Figure 1. Remember, work availability swings rapidly; it is never steady, so the pressure remains constant.

Figure 1. Power Imbalance of Contractors Per Economic Activity (Stevens and Smolders 2023).



Lower quartile competitors (by financial performance) cause many problems for the other 75%. These “grey” market operators are the closest to default of all contractors. For most of this group, governments allow them to operate, and they are untouched by associations. Better contractors are constantly battling those who read project specifications and industry regulations creatively. If every authority enforces rules and standards, they align themselves with construction firms that operate ethically and legally, in both spirit and practice.

Misunderstanding

The project owners and government

set the contracting environment. The first has the power of the purse, the second, the power of the free market. Each can rapidly weaken a construction firm’s health. When there is turmoil or change in either, it flows to the contractor, main and sub. Calming the chaos and reducing change initiatives will enable construction firms to plan their businesses, including keeping high-value employees productive.

Current productivity models do not directly address issues such as increasing regulatory requirements, growing project complexity, supply chain fragmentation, technological dysfunction, labour skill heterogeneity, or site-specific challenges. These factors contribute to the well-documented “productivity paradox” in construction, where productivity lags despite advances such as increased ICT adoption, improved contracting methodology, and enlightened management actions. Oddly, it results in stagnant or declining multifactor productivity.

Contractors Have Worked Smarter

We know that trends such as

contractor performance are indicative. Relative measures tell us the truth. There are many instances of construction organisations improving. Here are three:

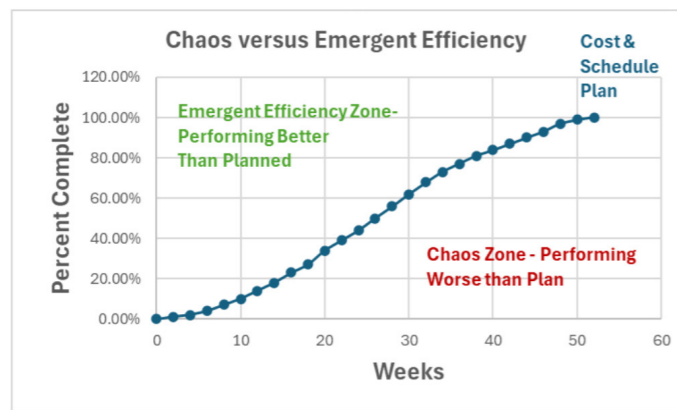
- Fatalities peaked in 2007 and have decreased each year since, even though the industry has grown in employment.
- First in AI adoption among the goods-producing industries
- Second in Intellectual Property to Revenue among the four goods-producing industries.

Thus, it makes sense that construction firms were 14% more productive in 2025 than in 1995, despite all the chaos and change that has occurred. This is remarkable given the nature and dynamics of contracting.

Most tenured and high-performing contractors work smart, such as pursuing a narrow focus in project type, client type and location. Also, part of their strategy is to always have a partial focus on smaller projects – they never go away, regardless of the economy. These modest projects are a great training ground, and all clients have small jobs. Also, above-average contractors know their “sweet spot,” of the Risk/Reward Curve where their people and company expertise thrive. High-performing contractors know their primary challenge is managing risk/reward. There is risk at all levels, but determining each risk’s potential payoff (ROI) makes it clearer whether to accept or reject it. As a result, the median ROI for the top 50% contractors, regardless of size or discipline, earn 38%.

Banking data show that upper-half contractors’ median financial performance is over 3 times better than that of bottom-half contractors, regardless of turnover or work type. Profit/Loss and Financial Statements are a proxy for the quality of strategic/operational thinking and execution. The top half is very mindful of Lorenz’s Chaos Theory: **starting conditions, if not managed, can cascade out of control.** See Figure 1. Each top firm has learned this well. They act accordingly, such as managing schedules and cost expectations, aggressively collecting and confirming information, and insisting that everyone finish today’s tasks today. They know that a quality project takes time and is remembered fondly years late

Figure 2. Top Half Contractors Perform in the Emergent Efficiency Zone on Most Projects (Stevens 2026)



Summary and Conclusion

Paraphrasing Edwards Deming, Australian Construction’s ad hoc system is designed perfectly to produce its current results. We see chaos theory offering a starting point for improving project performance. **The beginning conditions of any project need to be relatively**

perfect before starting. This is a minimum standard that must be further articulated.

To create a better industry, governmental departments and industry associations need to reward well-behaved firms and limit those that do not serve the best interests of owner-occupiers, developers, suppliers, and other stakeholders.

Many issues emanate from the construction industry being misunderstood. Additionally, a significant percentage of people hold industry veterans’ assertions in contempt and discount them without examination. These “operators” should be the primary source of information. Politically, the industry is fragmented. For builders and subcontractors, it is difficult to speak as a unified group, given the 30+ disciplines of work types and the natural tension between main contractors and their subs. This has

led to a hodgepodge of regulations and enforcement. As a result, business and operational planning is difficult, making a short-term focus more practical and profitable. In other words, a survival strategy.

Government and industry leaders **should not** wonder why a significant % of

construction stakeholders, including consumers, are dissatisfied with the status quo.

Stevens is a Western Sydney University academic. Smolders and Varrica are veteran construction company owners. Our reference literature is available upon request.

Strong Start to 2026 for Queensland Chapter with Engaging AI Event



The Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of Building has kicked off 2026 with impressive momentum, following the success of its first Continuing Professional Development (CPD) event of the year, “Is AI the Silver Bullet for Productivity?”, held on 23 March at Southbank TAFE in Brisbane.

The event attracted a strong turnout of industry professionals, students, and members, reflecting the growing interest in how emerging technologies are shaping the future of the built environment. With attendance exceeding expectations, the evening demonstrated the value of bringing the industry together to explore complex and evolving topics.

Focusing on the role of artificial intelligence in construction and project delivery, the panel discussion provided a highly engaging and thought-provoking forum. Attendees heard from experienced industry experts, Sophia Arkinstall, Michael Grandish and Joel Ferrie, who shared practical insights into how AI is already being applied across key areas such as project management,

design, compliance, and risk management.

The discussion tackled the central question head-on: is AI truly the “silver bullet” for productivity? While panellists acknowledged the significant opportunities AI presents in improving efficiency and decision-making, they also highlighted the challenges associated with implementation, data integrity, and the need for industry-wide adaptation.

The interactive nature of the session encouraged audience participation, with robust discussion continuing well beyond the formal panel. The combination of relevant content, expert perspectives, and strong engagement created a dynamic and valuable learning experience for all in attendance.

Beyond the discussion itself, the event also provided an excellent opportunity for networking, with attendees connecting over refreshments in a relaxed and professional setting.

This successful event marks an

exciting start to the year for the Queensland Chapter, setting a high standard for the CPD program ahead. With a focus on delivering timely, relevant, and engaging content, the Chapter is committed to supporting members and the broader industry in navigating the challenges and opportunities facing the construction profession.

There is strong momentum building within the Queensland Chapter, and members can look forward to a series of upcoming events that will continue to explore critical industry issues, foster professional development, and strengthen connections across the sector.

For those who were unable to attend, future events will provide further opportunities to engage with leading voices and stay at the forefront of industry change.

Stay tuned – there are exciting things ahead for the Queensland Chapter of the AIB.



Buildsoft launches AI Estimating add-on for Cubit Estimating, Advancing the Future of Construction Technology.



Buildsoft, a leader in estimating and construction software solutions, has today announced the launch of AI Estimating, a groundbreaking new add-on for its flagship platform, Cubit Estimating.

AI Estimating for Cubit Estimating automates key parts of the takeoff and estimating process including symbol counts, automatic area detection, and scanning plans to automatically find text. By eliminating repetitive manual tasks, Estimators and Quantity Surveyors can reclaim valuable time to focus on higher-value work such as winning bids, improving accuracy, and ensuring profitability.

This marks Buildsoft's first major step into artificial intelligence, designed to place powerful new technology directly into the hands of construction professionals and advance efficiency across the industry.

"At Buildsoft, our mission has always been to deliver solutions that empower the construction industry," said James Cunningham, Managing Director of Buildsoft. "Our customers have been asking about when and how we are incorporating AI into our tools, and we're proud to now put this technology in their hands. The launch also follows months of collaboration with Buildsoft

customers through Early Access and Beta programs, ensuring that our AI Estimating tools were shaped by the needs of the industry itself.

This release demonstrates Buildsoft's vision of helping the construction industry embrace new technologies that deliver real-world impact. By integrating AI directly into Cubit Estimating, Buildsoft is not only supporting its customers but also helping to drive innovation and efficiency across the broader industry.

"AI Estimating for Cubit Estimating is about giving construction professionals the tools to do their best work more efficiently," said Cunningham. "We know estimators and quantity surveyors bring critical expertise to every project. This technology complements their skills, helping them achieve more in less time."

Key benefits of AI Estimating include:

- Faster takeoffs with automation of repetitive tasks, including symbol counts, area detection, and scanning text.
- Reduced manual effort and risk of human error.
- The ability to transform hours of work into minutes.
- AI that supports and amplifies professional expertise, rather than replacing it.
- More time for estimators and quantity surveyors to focus

on strategy, profitability, and winning projects.

"We see this technology as the next leap forward in takeoff and estimating," Cunningham added. "It's our first step in delivering AI capabilities to our customers, and we're excited to continue our work in this area."

AI Estimating is now available as an add-on module for Cubit Estimating.

About Buildsoft

Innovators of world-renowned construction software, Buildsoft has developed estimating and takeoff solutions for more than 40 years. They are driven to deliver unrivaled software and services that transform the businesses and lives of Builders, Estimators, Quantity Surveyors, and Contractors - helping them to work faster, more efficiently, and more profitably than ever before. With thousands of construction companies in more than 50 countries trusting Buildsoft's solutions as their essential business software, they are a brand that is respected throughout the construction industry in Australia and around the world.

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Vale Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE GBM KC



At its meeting on 19th of March, the AIB Council passed a condolence motion recognising the passing of Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE GBM KC who was an Honorary Fellow of the AIB.

Sir Anthony Mason was a highly respected figure in Australia's legal and broader public life, whose contribution to the nation was both profound and enduring. As Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, he led a transformative period in Australian jurisprudence, helping to shape the modern legal landscape with clarity, intellect, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

His distinguished career was marked by leadership, integrity, and service at the highest level. Through his work, Sir Anthony strengthened the institutions that underpin our society and contributed significantly to the rule of law in Australia. His influence extended well beyond the bench,

leaving a legacy for the legal profession and the nation as a whole. Appointed Solicitor General for the Commonwealth of Australia in 1964 at the age of 39, the same year in which he took silk after just 13 years at the Bar, he became a judge of the then fledgling New South Wales Court of Appeal in 1969 before his elevation to the High Court of Australia in 1972. He sat on that Court for 23 years, the final eight of which as Chief Justice. Following his retirement from that position in 1995 at the constitutionally mandated age of 70, he went on to serve on the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal for a further two decades, sitting on that Court for up to three months a year both before and after the handover of Hong Kong from the United Kingdom to China. The importance of his role in that regard is not commonly appreciated.

At the same time, during his "retirement", he served as Chancellor

of the University of New South Wales and as Chair of the Council of the National Library of Australia as well as sitting from time to time as President of the Court of Appeal of the Solomon Islands and as an ad hoc judge on the Supreme Court of Fiji. Beyond these official duties, he maintained very close connections with the academy, especially at the UNSW, the ANU and the University of Cambridge. He was held in the highest esteem throughout the common law world, which led to the award of numerous honorary doctorates, including the rare DCL (honoris causa) from Oxford University in 1994.

Together with Chief Justice Gageler AC, Justice Mark Leeming, and Justices Stephen McLeish and Kris Walker AM of the Victorian Court of Appeal, the current Chief Justice of NSW Andrew Bell AC, many leading barristers and academics had the honour and privilege of serving as one of Sir Anthony's Associates. The Chief Justice of NSW recounted recently that his associate year in Sir Anthony's chambers as one of the most important and formative of my professional life. "To observe at close quarters this master judicial craftsman at the peak of his powers was an opportunity as rare as it was invaluable" the Chief Justice said.

In 2023, the AIB acknowledged Sir Anthony with the award of Honorary Fellowship, reflecting his valued connection to and commitment to the Australian Institute of Building, as well as his support for professional excellence in the built environment.

AIB Delegation Visits Our Hong Kong Chapter

The HK Chapter recently celebrated its local Professional Excellence Awards program at the Sheraton Towers Hong Kong.

Officiated by past National Presidents Mr David Burnell FAIB and Mr Greg McLean AM LFAIB, the event brought together the Chapter Committee along with many of the AIB's loyal Hong Kong members and winners of an award.

While in Hong Kong, the AIB was honoured to enter



into new collaboration agreements with the Hong Kong Institute of Clerk of Works, the Hong Kong Metropolitan University, and the Institute of Clerks of Works and Construction Inspectorate (Hong Kong).

These agreements will see opportunities for our Hong Kong-based participants to participate in information sharing and other CPD events. Whole there the delegation honoured the service of past Chapter Presidents with the presentation of their framed medal.



AIB Council Farewells an AIB Stalwart

At the most recent Council meeting in February, past National President and member of the AIB Council for over 36 years, Mr Robin Fardoulys AM LFAIB, announced his retirement.

Speaking to the Council, Mr Fardoulys reminisced on the many highlights of his time involved with the AIB, the networks he accessed, developed and the friends he made. The National President George Moschoyiannis FAIB commended Mr Fardoulys for his long and distinguished service on the Council and his many achievements. The Council passed a formal vote of thanks to Mr Fardoulys (and a nice bottle of wine!)



NAD Electronics CI Modular Series for Custom Integration now Available through Amber Technology

March 2026 - The NAD Electronics CI Modular Series, a compact, scalable platform purpose-built for the custom integration (CI) market is now available through Amber Technology in Australia.

The CI Modular Series features three models that combine high-performance audio, integration, and rack efficiency in a compact 1/3U-wide by 1U-high form factor. This will enable integrators to maximise rack space while maintaining flexibility across residential and commercial installations.

The CI Modular Series includes:

- NAD CI S2 Single Zone Streamer: a versatile streaming solution designed for high-quality music playback.
- NAD CI SA2-120 BluOS Streaming Amplifier: a powerful streaming amplifier with integrated BluOS for high-resolution, multi-room audio.
- NAD CI PA4-60 4 Channel Power Amplifier: a robust multi-channel power amplifier engineered for efficiency and scalability.

NAD developed the CI Modular Series specifically to support the evolving needs of integrators across new builds and retrofit projects. The ultra-compact design supports dense rack configurations, while BluOS integration provides high-resolution music streaming and multi-zone management.

Nathan Brady, General Manager, Integrated Solutions, Amber Technology, said, "The CI Modular Series reflects NAD Electronics' clear focus on the needs of today's integrators. The compact form factor, scalability, and BluOS integration make it a practical and flexible platform for residential and commercial projects across Australia. It gives our integration partners access to high-performance NAD audio in a format that supports efficient rack design and long-term system reliability."

As part of the BluOS ecosystem, the CI Modular Series provides a stable and intuitive interface for high-resolution streaming and multi-room control with integration capabilities for leading third-party control systems. Professional AV integrators can

design tailored solutions aligned to performance, control, and scalability requirements.

In addition to the CI Modular Series, NAD Electronics has updated its CI DSP amplifier range, including enhancements to the CI 8-150 DSP, CI 8-120 DSP, and CI 16-60 DSP models. Improvements include a redesigned user interface with a live status dashboard for remote checks, enhanced zone grouping, zone-specific sleep functions, global input flexibility, and expanded DSP functionality such as limiters, delay, and phase control to support seamless subwoofer integration. Additional refinements include improved power management, password protection, reduced boot-up time, and enhanced third-party application program interface (API) integration to support expanded remote monitoring.

The NAD Electronics CI Modular Series are available in Australia from April 2026. For further information on NAD CI solutions in Australia, visit www.ambertech.com.au or talk to the Amber Technology team.

Unlocking the Benefits of AIB Membership: Professional Development and Exclusive Rewards

Membership with the Australian Institute of Building (AIB) provides professional recognition, career development opportunities, industry engagement, and exclusive lifestyle benefits. Professionals, associate professionals, and technicians in the built environment can access a suite of services designed to advance their careers and provide personal benefits.

One of the foremost advantages of AIB membership is professional recognition. Members who have successfully completed the application process are acknowledged as qualified building and construction professionals. Those at the Member and Fellow levels may use the prestigious trademark "Chartered Building Professional." Selected membership grades also grant post-nominal credentials that enhance professional credibility. Beyond status, AIB membership also opens doors to enhanced employment opportunities, helping members stand out in a competitive industry.

Continued professional development is a cornerstone of AIB membership. Members gain access to an extensive array of learning opportunities, including local chapter seminars, site visits, online CPD courses, and webinars. These programs not only keep members at the forefront of industry best practices but also foster ongoing skill enhancement, ensuring long-term

career growth.

Membership also comes with networking and advocacy benefits. Members are invited to a wide range of events, from award ceremonies to industry site visits, providing valuable opportunities to build professional relationships. Participation in local Chapter Committees and the National Council allows members to contribute to shaping the profession, while AIB's advocacy efforts protect and promote the interests of the building community.

A standout feature of AIB membership is the Member Advantage loyalty program, designed to reward members with exclusive lifestyle benefits and discounts. Available to all members except Student Members, this program offers a new way to enjoy rewards, savings, and perks across multiple categories. Members can access special deals in various categories, including leisure, travel, shopping and gifts, automotive, technology and electronics, financial services, and health and wellbeing.

Whether booking a holiday, purchasing electronics, or managing personal finances, Member Advantage provides tangible value that complements the professional benefits of membership.

Accessing these benefits is simple: members can explore the full range of offers via the Member Advantage platform at aib.memberadvantage.com.au. This platform ensures that membership delivers not only career-focused advantages but also meaningful savings and rewards for everyday life.

AIB membership is fully tax-deductible, offering professional and financial value. By combining career development, industry recognition, networking opportunities, and lifestyle rewards, AIB membership holistically supports members professionally and personally. For professionals in the building and construction industry, joining AIB means more than a title—it's a commitment to excellence, growth, and a range of exclusive advantages designed to enhance every aspect of professional life.

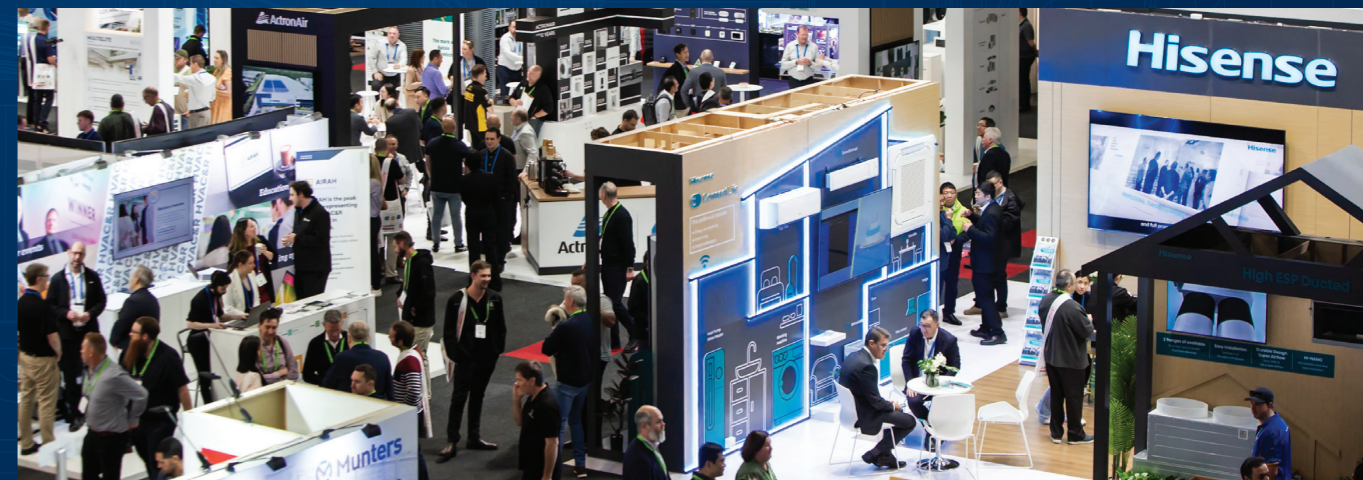


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\$3 BILLION RHODES TOWN CENTRE VISION COMES TO LIFE WITH FINAL STAGE

Plans have been revealed for the third and final stage of Billbergia's \$3 billion Rhodes Central masterplan, bringing the iconic new town centre closer to completion.

Located at 23-25 Marquet Street in Sydney's inner west, the last stage of the landmark development will comprise 361 new dwellings within a 39-level residential tower, Cascade. The apartment mix includes critically needed affordable housing and multi-generational apartments.

Vibrant retail, interactive public space, an upscale food and beverage offering and an alfresco dining plaza will also be delivered alongside Cascade tower as part of Stage Three.

The final stage of Rhodes Central Town Centre comes on the back of the masterplan's successful first two stages.

Stage One saw 568 apartments delivered along with the national award-winning Rhodes Central shopping centre, while Stage Two has delivered a further 673 apartments atop the \$85 million Rhodes Recreation Centre.

Officially opened in November 2025 by Mayor Michael Megna, the Recreation Centre was delivered under a Voluntary Planning Agreement with City of Canada Bay Council. It features essential community facilities including a gym, early childhood learning

centre, indoor sports courts, and a gymnastics area as well as commercial tenancies and amenities.

Once complete, the five-tower Rhodes Central masterplan will deliver a combined total of over 1,600 new homes for about 3,500 people, along with community infrastructure, retail, dining, and an expansive new public domain and plaza along Marquet Street. A new basement and podium rooftop will connect all five buildings and allow residents to share amenities.

"We're now a step closer to realising our vision for Rhodes Central. With brand new retail and more public open space, this final stage embodies our commitment to creating connected communities and delivering housing diversity amid Sydney's housing crisis. It also completes the landmark town centre precinct that has been almost 20 years in the making," said Saul Moran, Development Director – Planning and Design at Billbergia.

The project sets a benchmark for Transport Orientated Development. It brings life to Billbergia's vision for a future-focused, liveable urban environment that prioritises amenity, not just density. Overall, it will deliver more than 25,000 sqm in publicly accessible amenity, including Rhodes Central Shopping Centre, Rhodes Recreation Centre, commercial office space and a further 1,200 square metres of retail space in Stage Three.

"Rhodes has evolved over two decades from a former industrial site into a connected, thriving community. Each stage has built on the last, adding not just housing, but the civic and social spaces that make a place truly liveable and allow the community to flourish," said John Pradel, Partner and Master Plan Lead at SJB.

Ideally positioned adjacent to the 13,000-square-metre Rhodes Central shopping centre, Stage Three will boast an additional 10% of retail space, an upmarket restaurant offering, an open-air dining plaza and an expansive 2,000-square-metre addition to the public domain extending into the retail forecourt.

This new realm will enhance pedestrian connectivity while showcasing an interactive water feature and engaging public art. It has been designed as an active community space and will also feature pop-up civic infrastructure, including a community stage and kiosk for placemaking events.

Stage Three's residential tower Cascade will comprise 361 apartments over 39-levels, including 72 affordable dwellings. Apartments

will be available in a range of floorplans from one to four-bedroom configurations, with a luxe two-storey "skyhouse" spanning the top two levels. Communal viewing decks and gardens with BBQ facilities will crown Cascade's rooftop, offering expansive views of the Blue Mountains to the West and Brays Bay and Sydney CBD to the East.

High-profile architecture firm SJB will design the final stage after winning a design excellence competition in collaboration with Land and Form in September 2024. The Rhodes Central masterplan was originally conceived by SJB in 2005, with the firm subsequently delivering the design for Stages One and Two.

Cascade has a striking design with a slender tower grounded by a four-storey podium. The tower is divided into three forms, with a distinctive silhouette that resembles three fingers. The design optimises amenity and privacy while maximising views towards both Sydney CBD and Homebush Bay.

According to SJB, the project's design aims to deliver a range of dwelling types, including multi-generational floorplans, catering

to emerging needs of the growing population. "Our concept encompasses a broader site vision that integrates this site with Rhodes Town Centre through a new iconic building and generous public domain. Cascade's design offers a variety of living typologies that cater to a diverse range of existing and emerging demographics. The proposal aims to improve social and environmental connections by creating a safe and welcoming landscape for existing and future communities of Rhodes," said Emily Wombwell, Director and Design Lead at SJB.

Sustainability will be enhanced through a range of considerations, including on-site solar generation, efficient HVAC systems, tiered exterior planters and rooftop native landscaping, optimised window glazing and water recycling for reuse onsite.

A State Significant Development Application (SSDA) has now been lodged for Stage Three of Rhodes Central. Demolition has been completed on site, early works including excavation will begin early 2026, with completion estimated in 2030.



From Ocean Plastic to Luxe Window Coverings

Luxaflex offers world's first window furnishing fabric made using plastic collected from shorelines



Global window coverings leader Luxaflex, is celebrating a significant milestone in sustainability. Through its partnership with materials innovator Bionic, Luxaflex is turning plastic waste collected from the world's beaches and waterways into high-quality, stylish window coverings. The program is an international collaboration with Luxaflex parent company Hunter Douglas, Bionic and the Waterkeeper Alliance.

According to CSIRO, around 90 tonnes of primary materials are extracted each year to meet global demands for plastic products and staggeringly only 9 per cent of this is recycled¹. With an estimated 14 million tonnes of microplastics accumulated on the seafloor², disrupting marine ecosystems and contributing to one of the planet's most pressing environmental crises, tackling this issue at scale requires innovation, collaboration and action.

Luxaflex Equascreen is the world's first fabric made

using 50% recycled ocean-bound plastic, designed specifically for interior blinds such as Luxaflex Roller and Panel Glide Blinds. Plastic is collected in 37 countries through a global network of clean-up initiatives supported by the Waterkeeper Alliance, then sorted, processed, and spun into Bionic FLX yarn. This yarn is used to create sustainable, functional, and elegant solar-control fabrics that reduce glare, provide UV protection, and help regulate indoor temperatures without compromising on design. The fabric is Cradle to Cradle Certified™, PVC-free, halogen-free, and Oeko-Tex Certified, meeting global standards for health, recyclability, and circular design.

Since the program's inception in 2019, over 40 tonnes of ocean-bound plastic have been repurposed into Luxaflex Equascreen fabrics demonstrating how waste can be turned into beauty, and environmental degradation into purposeful design.

"With Luxaflex Equascreen, we've proven that it's possible to merge sustainable innovation with home comfort and style," said Diana Altiparmakova, Head



of Product and Marketing, Luxaflex Window Fashions. "We're proud to lead the way globally, showing that businesses can be part of the solution not the problem. The initiative is also testament to the power of partnerships, with local communities empowered through collection programs that generate both environmental and economic impact."

In Australia, over 130,000 tonnes of plastic leak into the environment every year³, which is equivalent to more than 5,000 shipping containers. The program has found eager uptake among eco-

conscious homeowners, designers, and architects seeking sustainable alternatives that don't compromise on performance or aesthetics.

conscious homeowners, designers, and architects seeking sustainable alternatives that don't compromise on performance or aesthetics.

"Australian homeowners are increasingly seeking products that align with their values," said Altiparmakova. "With Luxaflex Equascreen, they can create beautiful interiors while also contributing to a cleaner planet. It's a win for design and a win for the oceans."

Whether it's a minimalist Roller Blind for a coastal retreat or practical Panel Glide Blinds for a family home,

the range offers premium design, with the added benefit of helping to reduce marine plastic pollution. "Importantly, we wanted to create a fabric that didn't just do good, but looked good. Luxaflex Equascreen proves you don't need to compromise on style to make sustainable choices for your home. From the fabric texture to the tonal palette, we've designed this range to complement modern interiors."

Available in a range of soft neutrals, calming greys, and sun-washed tones, the Equascreen colour palette draws inspiration from nature including dune, seafoam, and snow. The weave delivers a tactile, textured look that adds depth and dimension to any room.

This initiative is part of a wider sustainability movement across the Luxaflex product portfolio, which includes blinds made from recycled polyester in the energy efficient honeycomb Duette Shades range, and a newly added range called Thea for the Luxaflex Pirouette Shadings range.

"Window furnishings are often overlooked when it comes to sustainable design. But they're critical, not just in helping to regulate a home's energy use, but in setting the tone for a space," Altiparmakova said. "The fact that Luxaflex transforms global plastic waste into stylish, high-performance window coverings means Australian homeowners can make a difference from the comfort of their home."

For further information visit www.luxaflex.com.au

References:

¹ <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2021/march/reimagining-the-future-of-plastics>

² disrupting marine ecosystems and contributing to one of the planet's most pressing environmental crises,

³ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/publications/national-plastics-plan-summary>

Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing and Structural Steels



The AIB is a member of the Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing and Structural Steels (ACRS) and has been an active contributor over the last decade.

Some Chartered building professionals would be aware of what ACRS is and does, but many don't. This article is designed to give an overview of this important system and provide links for more information on ACRS and its work

What is ACRS?

ACRS is the leading and most technically rigorous, internationally aligned steel certifier to Australian and New Zealand Standards.

ACRS operate a two-stage steel certification scheme unique within Australia and New Zealand. Its independent, not-for-profit approach – accredited by and regularly audited by JAS-ANZ – gives users assurance of truly impartial, expert certification.

ACRS was created, and is supported, by peak local technical bodies

(such as the Australian Institute of Building, Austroads, Engineers Australia, and SRIA – see ACRS members).

ACRS provide steel specifiers, designers, and customers confidence in the sourcing of materials and the supply of finished steel delivered to the construction site – independent of the steel supplier.

How does ACRS work?

All ACRS assessments and reviews are undertaken by qualified and experienced metallurgists and engineers.

The ACRS audit committee works completely independently of anyone associated with the steel industry or affiliated with steel corporates or industry bodies.

ACRS offers four different steel certification schemes:

1. Product (<https://steelcertification.com/product-certification>)

ACRS Product Certification Scheme certifies the transformation of incoming steel into a finished form, including:

- processing of raw (feed) materials
- manufacture of steel and construction products
- steel reinforcing materials and welded steel beams

2. Traceability (<https://steelcertification.com/traceability-certification>)

ACRS Traceability Certification Scheme extends the traceability provisions in the Product Certification Scheme to assess the supply chain end-to-end, including

- steel traders, distributors, retailers
- or component suppliers (e.g., bolts, couplers, and connectors)
- that operate between the steel mill and the final steel processor or fabricator

3. Sustainability (<https://steelcertification.com/sustainability-certification>)

ACRS Sustainability Constructional Steel Certification Scheme certifies sustainably produced steel that meets

the highest global environmental, social, and ethical standards. For suppliers of

- steelmaking (billets, blooms)
- production of intermediate materials (e.g. wire rod, slabs)
- production of finished materials (e.g. steel bar/coil and structural steels)
- fabricated materials (mesh, processed bar and welded fabrication)

4. Quality Management (<https://steelcertification.com/iso9000-certification>)

ACRS Quality Management System Certification Scheme ISO 9001 certifies a quality management system to AS/NZS 9001:2016, for those holding or seeking ACRS product certification for

- reinforcing steels
- prestressing steels
- structural steels
- and related products

Why Choose ACRS?

Independent

The independence of ACRS' auditing process provides certainty of no commercial affiliation and that its certification of constructional steel is truly impartial.

Expert

ACRS prides itself on having auditors with in-depth experience and expertise across production, technical and quality requirements within the steel manufacturing industry and tertiary qualifications in metallurgy or engineering.

Non-profit

ACRS' not-for-profit, minimum-cost model means it provides better value for money than any commercial equivalent.

Consumer-driven

ACRS was established to ensure steel users and specifiers have the certainty they need that the steel they are using complies with the necessary AS/NZS Standards.

ACRS' organisational structure ensures impartiality and confidentiality

ACRS is structured around the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065. Impartiality and confidentiality are the two highest priorities of this Standard and require ACRS to have a corporate structure, governance, and personnel policies to achieve this.

As such, ACRS has been structured to ensure key organisational characteristics, including:

- A balanced representation of interests, as shown by the Board
- No Board representation by individuals from companies which could qualify for ACRS certification
- Clear separation between personnel undertaking the evaluations and those providing approvals for certification
- No disclosure of information gathered about a product or supplier during certification, to any third party without written consent of the supplier.

Safeguards, with respect to personnel, include:

- All full-time and contract personnel are required to sign confidentiality agreements
- While personnel may have worked for a potential certificate holder in the past, they will satisfy the requirements of Clause 5 of ISO Guide 65 for separation and impartiality

The ACRS team have been invited to be part of the AIB Constructing the Future program

Australian Constructors Association Appoints New CEO



Peter Colacino. Image: Australian Constructors Association.

The Australian Constructors Association (ACA) has appointed Peter Colacino as its next Chief Executive Officer, effective 4 May 2026, succeeding Jon Davies who will remain with the association until June to support the transition.

ACA President, Annabel Crookes, said Colacino brings extensive industry knowledge and policy experience.

“Peter understands the construction sector from every angle, having worked closely with contractors and been at the centre of government policy discussions shaping the industry’s future,” Crookes said.

“Peter is well placed to translate the work that has gone before into change felt on the ground. With major initiatives such as the National Construction Strategy now well progressed, the task ahead is to turn that work into improvements for contractors, clients and workers across the sector.”

Paying tribute to Jon Davies, Crookes added:

“He has played a foundational role in establishing the ACA as a trusted partner to government and a leading advocate for industry reform. He leaves the association in a strong position, with a clear strategy and real momentum for change.”

Davies said he is proud of what the association has achieved in elevating the voice of major contractors and progressing important industry reforms.

“I leave confident that the ACA will be in the front row as the transformative change we’ve worked so hard to set in motion becomes real on the ground,” Davies said.

Colacino said he looked forward to building on the ACA’s strong platform.

“The opportunity ahead is to accelerate that momentum and work even more closely with government and industry so the benefits of reform are felt across projects, businesses and the workforce. I’m excited to help lead that next phase.”

The AIB has a strong, long-standing stakeholder relationship with the ACA and welcomes Peter Colacino’s appointment. Over the years, Jon Davies has been a strong supporter of the AIB, and his legacy while at the ACA will be long-lasting. The AIB congratulated Jon for his commitment to the industry



Report Reinforces Need for Circular Construction Reform

The Productivity Commission’s final report into Australia’s circular economy: unlocking the opportunities has been welcomed by the Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) and reinforces industry calls to streamline policy to enable greater use of recycled and low-carbon materials in construction.

The report highlights the need to move away from overly prescriptive standards and inconsistent state-based specifications that restrict the use of recycled and alternative materials in infrastructure and building projects, an issue consistently raised by CCAA in its submission to the inquiry and its interim report submission.

CCAA welcomed the Commission’s call for a national stocktake of infrastructure standards and specifications, including specific consideration of standards governing cement and concrete.

CCAA Chief Executive Officer, Michael Kilgariff, said the report provides a clear, evidence-based pathway to lift materials productivity while supporting economic growth, decarbonisation and infrastructure delivery.

“The Productivity Commission has recognised what our industry has consistently been saying for years. Australia can only unlock the benefits of a circular economy when outdated and inconsistent regulations are modernised to encourage innovation,” Kilgariff said.

“Our members are already applying circular economy principles at scale through established material reuse, recycling and emissions reduction practices.

“What is now required is a regulatory and standards environment that supports the safe, effective use of these materials in construction and infrastructure.

“The report’s discussion of Australian Cement Standard AS 3972-2010 highlights the need to ensure standards keep pace with modern materials, technologies and emissions reduction opportunities, while maintaining safety and performance.

“Moving away from overly prescriptive requirements and toward performance-based standards is critical to enabling the safe, durable and large scale use of recycled and lower-carbon materials.

“With significant public infrastructure investment ahead, even modest reforms to standards and procurement can deliver real productivity, cost and emissions benefits.”

CCAA also welcomed the report’s emphasis on regulatory harmonisation across jurisdictions.

“Different rules in different states does not deliver better outcomes, it simply increases cost and delays for projects and businesses operating nationally,” Kilgariff said.

“A coordinated, cross-jurisdictional approach is essential if Australia is serious about scaling up circular construction.

“Our industry supports circularity that is evidence-based, with the focus firmly on performance, safety and outcomes.”

The CCAA looks forward to working with governments, standards bodies and infrastructure agencies to implement the report’s recommendations and support resilient infrastructure delivery and the transition to net zero.

Construction Sector Confronts the Future

by Lisa Korycki, Infrastructure Magazine



As Australia’s construction and infrastructure sector navigates rising delivery risk, workforce shortages, decarbonisation targets and accelerating digital change, industry leaders are increasingly looking for forums that move beyond surface-level discussion.

Now entering its sixth year, the Future of Construction Summit has established itself as one of the industry’s most influential annual gatherings – a place where policy, project delivery, technology and sustainability intersect.

The 2026 summit (FCON26) will be held in Brisbane on 19-20 May, bringing together contractors, asset owners, government representatives, financiers and technology providers from across the country.

A national forum for industry-led

discussion

Since its launch, FCON has positioned itself as a practical, industry-driven event focused on the challenges facing construction today rather than theoretical futures. Its growing attendance reflects a sector seeking clarity and direction amid cost escalation, pipeline uncertainty and increasing delivery complexity.

This year’s program is the largest to date, featuring more than 120 speakers and an expected 800-plus senior delegates. The agenda has been developed in collaboration with leaders from across the construction ecosystem, ensuring relevance across both public and private sector projects.

Three tracks reflecting sector priorities

Day two of FCON26 is structured around three dedicated conference streams, allowing delegates to engage deeply with the issues most relevant to their role and organisation.

Technology and Digital Delivery will examine how data, digital engineering, Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics and automation are being applied across project lifecycles – and where implementation challenges remain.

Net Zero Construction and Renewable Projects focuses on decarbonisation, climate resilience and delivery of renewable and energy transition infrastructure, with a strong emphasis on practical pathways rather than aspirational targets.

Project Delivery Excellence



Networking with purpose

Beyond the formal program, FCON has built a reputation for facilitating meaningful industry connection. The 2026 summit includes a series of curated networking events, including a pre-summit cocktail reception, a gala dinner, private luncheons, breakfasts and curated matchmaking between attendees and exhibitors.

An exhibition featuring more than 80 solution providers will run across both days, showcasing tools and services addressing productivity, safety, sustainability and delivery efficiency.

addresses productivity, procurement, risk allocation and supply chain resilience – issues that continue to dominate boardroom discussions across the sector. Alongside these streams, targeted spotlights will explore data centres, living sectors and modern methods of construction, reflecting areas of sustained investment and growth.

From policy to project delivery

A defining feature of the summit is its emphasis on real-world case studies. Sessions draw on lessons from live projects and operating environments, offering insights into what is working – and what is not – under current market conditions.

Topics span major project delivery models, digital adoption, workforce capability, sustainability integration and the impact of regulatory and policy settings on project outcomes.

Updates on 2032 Brisbane Olympics and defence infrastructure pipelines also form part of the program, providing forward-looking context for contractors and suppliers.

Innovation, skills and the

changing workforce

As automation and digital tools become increasingly embedded in construction workflows, FCON26 will also explore their implications for the workforce.

Discussions will consider how organisations are adapting skills frameworks, attracting new talent and responding to generational change – particularly as competition for skilled labour intensifies. Robotics, offsite construction and AI-enabled project management will feature prominently, not as concepts, but as applied solutions already reshaping delivery models.



PRESTRESSED CONCRETE EXPLAINED: WHAT ENGINEERS NEED TO KNOW

The question of whether to go for prestressed concrete or post-tensioned concrete is often a dilemma for those engineers who have very little knowledge of this specialised field of structural engineering.

I must admit that when I graduated from the University of Sydney back in 1976, I did not fully understand this topic even though I had one of the leading academics in Australia, Professor Deniston Campbell-Allen, as my lecturer in this specialised area.

It was very interesting in those days, because the engineering marketplace had two Australian Standards that addressed structural concrete. The first was AS 1480, which addressed Reinforced Concrete Structures (the predecessor to the current AS 3600) and the second was AS 1481, which addressed Prestressed Concrete Structures (PSC is now incorporated into AS 3600).

The merger of these two documents occurred in 1988 after many complaints by the prestressing industry. They felt that PSC would be better accepted by practicing engineers if prestressed concrete and reinforced

concrete were all contained within one structural concrete standard.

Today, all Standards requirements for prestressed concrete and reinforced concrete can be found in AS 3600-Concrete Structures.

So, what is the difference between prestressed and post-tensioned concrete?

These two terms are often referenced and quoted in many engineering fields, but there exists some confusion over their meaning.

In fact, the overall umbrella term is actually "Prestressed Concrete", as it indicates that the concrete will be stressed at some point during its manufacture. The terms that are under the main expression are pre-tensioned and post-tensioned.

Pre-Tensioned Concrete

If one is manufacturing a small span hollow core floor

plank, then the steel strands are placed on a long steel bed (usually 150 metres to 180 metres long) and then tensioned.

A low slump concrete is then extruded over the strands, while steel tubes within the forming machine create the hollow voids.

Once the concrete has sufficiently hardened, the stressed strands at the ends of the long bed are then released, whereby the concrete compresses.

The 150-metre-long concrete extrusion is then cut into smaller section sizes to create prestressed precast concrete planks.

Post-Tensioned Concrete

On the other hand, if an engineer wishes to produce a thinner, longer slab in a high-rise floor, then a better option than reinforced concrete is to use a post-tensioning floor system.

In this instance, the steel strands are fed into thin steel tubes called ducts (usually five strands per duct).

The premixed concrete is then placed and poured around the ducts as is done with a conventional concrete slab system. The following day after the pour, the steel strands are tensioned to about 25 per cent of their breaking load.

This is done to seal any cracks that may have occurred

within the 24-hour period after concrete placement.

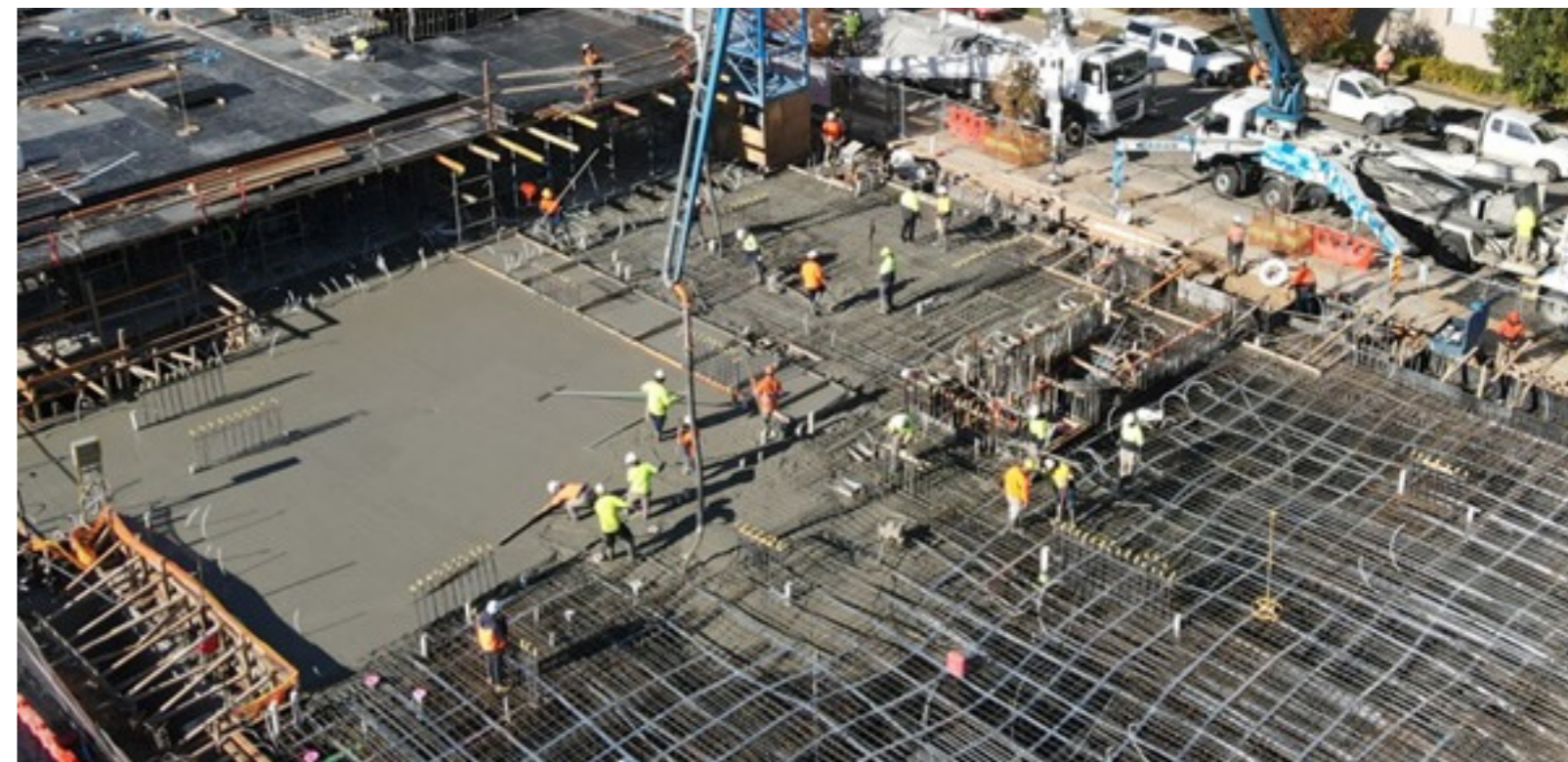
Three or four days later when the concrete has achieved between 22 megapascals to 25 megapascals in concrete cylinder strength, the remaining stress is applied to the strands. The floor is now deemed to be post-tensioned.

In infrastructure works where long bridge beams are often required, prefabricated concrete box girders are placed on supports and then strands are fed through preformed openings in each of the girders. The steel strands are then post-tensioned, thereby compressing all the girders into one long element, forming the bridge structure.

Visit www.etia.net.au for more details.



As construction methods evolve and standards change, clarity around prestressed and post-tensioned concrete has become essential for today's engineers. Engineering Training Institute Australia Director, Paul Uno explains.





Standards - Critical infrastructure for Australia's Sustainable Future

Australia's sustainability transition is being reshaped by global uncertainty, heightened climate impacts and rapid economic transformation. In this environment, the challenge is not only setting ambition, but creating the conditions that enable confidence, consistency and momentum.

Standards Australia's latest insights paper, *Standards enabling Australia's sustainable transition*, launched following the Standards in a Sustainable World Forum (the forum), examines how standards are supporting this shift from policy intent to realworld outcomes, providing the foundations for credible action across carbon markets, recycling systems and the built environment.

"The challenge now is delivery, converting ambition into consistent, credible action at scale. Standards play a critical yet often unseen role in this transition. They provide the shared language, benchmarks and assurance that allow innovation, markets and regulation to operate together with confidence," said Standards Australia CEO

Rod Balding.

A world demanding credibility, speed and trust

Globally, governments are tightening climate targets, supply chains are being reshaped by geopolitical shocks, and scrutiny of sustainability claims has intensified. From carbon markets to green building materials, organisations are under mounting pressure to prove not just intent, but impact.

Standards are increasingly central to this credibility challenge, providing agreed definitions, performance benchmarks and assurance frameworks that underpin trust in data, markets and emerging technologies.

In Australia, this need is sharpened by the move from policy design to implementation. With legislated emissions targets, a reformed Safeguard Mechanism and expanding carbon and recycling markets, attention is turning to the practical question: how do we measure,

compare and scale action consistently?

This is where standards matter most, acting as the bridge between policy ambition and realworld delivery.

As Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC noted during the forum, "Government and the public need to understand the importance of standards."

Six insights shaping the next phase of transition

Drawing on perspectives from parliament, industry and technical experts, the paper identifies six areas where standards can have the greatest impact:

Standards as essential national infrastructure, enabling interoperability, comparability and confidence across sectors and supply chains

Greater agility and pace, to keep up with fastmoving technologies, markets and expectations

Clearer pathways, helping users navigate an increasingly crowded and complex standards landscape

Adoption at scale, through stronger alignment with regulation, procurement and incentives

Performancebased and circular outcomes, embedding durability, reuse and lifecycle thinking while supporting innovation

Trust, assurance and integrity, particularly for carbon markets, sustainability claims and data

From carbon markets to the built environment

The paper highlights how standards are already shaping outcomes in key sectors:

Carbon markets, by improving transparency, comparability and credibility as markets grow in scale and complexity

Recycling and the circular economy, by supporting circular design and building confidence in recovered materials

The built environment, where performancebased standards enable innovation while ensuring safety,

durability and longterm value

It also outlines how Standards Australia is responding through more agile development pathways, including faster standards for emerging materials such as biochar and hempcrete, and international work on environmental data and artificial intelligence governance.

A practical mechanism for a sustainable future

Australia's sustainability transition will ultimately be defined not by targets, but by execution.

Standards can help provide one of the most effective mechanisms available to align policy intent, market confidence and innovation – supporting durable environmental, economic and social outcomes through 2030 and beyond.



TAFE NSW Launches 'How to stay Steel Safe' Course

A new online course is helping builders, planners, engineers, procurers, developers and others to understand steel safety, compliance, and third-party certification.

The course, available through TAFE NSW, helps train the industry on the risks of uncertified steel; how to identify, prove, and advocate for compliant steel; and how to use independent third-party certification to ensure you receive the correct steel and that the steel is compliant.

Steel plays a crucial role in construction, with implications for safety, building performance and legal responsibilities. Much of the steel used in Australia is imported, but not all steel bought for use in Australia meets Australian Standards, and misleading labels and false documentation are common.

Building with non-certified steel can lead to product failure, decreased durability, increased liability, and financial losses. Using product certification from independent third-party certifiers helps ensure compliance and quality, protecting against these issues.

This course explains how steel is regulated in Australia,

the risks you should be aware of, and how to avoid these risks by correctly identifying certified steel.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the risks of using uncertified steel in building projects, and the advantages of using properly certified steel.
- Identify steel that is compliant with Australian Standards and recognise signs of counterfeit certificates or false claims relating to the quality of steel.
- Be able to use third-party certification to ensure and demonstrate compliance.

This course is aimed at planners, architects, engineers, designers, procurers and developers, builders, inspecting engineers and certifiers.

The course is self-paced, with a final assessment to obtain a certificate of completion. It was proudly developed with the assistance of the Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing and Structural Steels (ACRS).



Why Digital Product Traceability is Key

Many industries now use digital product traceability for its many benefits. Textiles customers are demanding better visibility over the supply chain for ethical reasons. In food, we are accustomed to barcodes providing traceability for safety and quality reassurance. In automobiles, traceability is used to drive efficiencies across a complex manufacturing process and end-user safety, from tracking components to enabling specific recall in the case of faults.

Supply chains across the globe have taken up digital product certification for better safety and quality; optimised process efficiencies; improved sustainable performance; and increased consumer confidence. It benefits manufacturers, end-users, and everyone in between.

Complexity in construction

Construction has complex processes, with multiple procurers, manufacturers, and parts sourced from around the world. For safety critical components, compliance must be demonstrated, but for materials like steel, concrete and timber, safety-critical traceability exists mainly in paper-based systems. These systems can be cumbersome and open to fraudulent behaviour – thus reducing confidence in the conformity of the materials and raising questions regarding provenance.

In recent years, numerous industry inquests and reports have highlighted quality and traceability of building

products as a critical component of ensuring compliance of buildings. Consequently, the industry is seeing a move to holding all parties in the supply chain responsible for the supply of conforming material, to ensure traceability is transparent from end to end. There has also been a substantial push to demonstrate environmental credentials.

Users need public safety; product conformity; sustainability; and productivity during construction – by specifying product certification and digital product traceability from source to site, these needs can be met.

Steel certainty

ACRS, Australasia's leading steel certifier, has been providing traceability to the market for more than 20 years, with product traceability through the supply chain being a core element of ACRS certification.

ACRS has introduced ACRS Cloud, the first digital certification system of its kind for steel in the New Zealand

Australian region. ACRS Cloud gives steel buyers and users instant assurance over product certificates at the touch of a button, in a secure environment to provide confidence of products' conformance to AS/NZS Standards.

Users through the supply chain can get product piece of mind by checking the nature and authenticity of ACRS steel certificates in the new ACRS Cloud app - available free on Apple and Android.

The app further protects the market from product compliance issues: QR codes on ACRS certificates can be scanned onsite to instantly identify the source of the product and its certification details against a single source of truth, simply:

1. Download the ACRS Cloud App
2. Scan the QR code on delivery papers or electronic certificate
3. In the app, select the ACRS ID of the certificate
4. View the certificate in full, including scope, origin, and key dates.



Standards - Process to Develop a New Standard



The AIB is a long-standing member of Standards Australia (SA), and our input is regularly sought for the development or update of an Australian Standard. This work is critical to the building and construction industry, so our highly skilled and experienced chartered building professionals are sought after by SA.

For the AIB to continue this work, we need the support of our members. The AIB's team are regularly asked by SA for a representative to support this important work so if you are interested in being involved please get in touch with the AIB's CEO Mr Robert Hunt on ceo@aib.org.au.

For the interest of members the process followed by SA is summarized in this article

There are six main stages in the development of an Australian Standard:

1. Project Proposal

Any proposal to develop, revise or amend an Australian Standard comes from the Australian community. The proposal is required to go through Standards Australia's project prioritisation and selection process.

For further information on the proposal process, please refer to [Submitting a](#)

[Proposal.](#)

2. Project Kick-Off

Once a proposal has been approved, it is assigned to a technical committee. Standards Australia reviews the constitution of all technical committees before commencing any new project work.

Standards Australia then holds a kick-off meeting with the technical committee to introduce the project. The committee discusses the approved project scope (and what is out of scope), drafting tasks, timeframes, and means of monitoring project progress.

3. Drafting the Standard

In this stage working groups provide the technical content to write the standard. These working groups report to the technical committee on the scope and timeliness of the work.

[Simplified Drafting Template](#)

[Simplified Drafting Template FAQs](#)

4. Public Comment

The opportunity to comment on a draft standard allows the community to review the content and direction of the document prior to its completion. Drafts are available to the public for comment for nine weeks.

All comments from the public are considered in detail by the technical committee and, if necessary, further drafting is undertaken.

View the current list of [drafts available for public comment](#) (via comment.standards.org.au)

In some cases, the committee may propose to combine public comment and approval (ballot) of the standard. This depends on the extent and complexity of the proposals, and the level of consultation and review needed.

[Download the Public Comment Portal Help Guide](#)

5. Ballot

Prior to publication, the committee votes on the final draft. Committee members may vote affirmatively (with or without comment) or negatively. To be considered, negative votes must be accompanied by technical substantiation.

For the standard to be published, consensus must be reached in accordance with our [standardisation guides](#).

6. Publication

The standard is ready for publication once final approval is given by, or on behalf of, the Standards Development and Accreditation Committee (SDAC).

Meet the Team

Robert Hunt

Chief Executive Officer



Robert has returned for another tenure in the leadership team with the AIB. With a strong background in organisational leadership and a deep understanding of the Institute, Robert will continue to guide the organisation's strategic direction and support the Chapters.

ceo@aib.org.au

Katya James

Comms and Publications Officer



Katya oversees all communications, branding, and publications, including Construct magazine, newsletters, and social media channels. Her role is central to ensuring our messaging is clear, professional, and engaging, and that the AIB brand remains strong and visible across the industry.

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Jamie Taylor

General Manager



Jamie continues to oversee the Accreditation Program, ensuring that our standards in education and professional development remain strong and future-focused. Jamie is focussed on adding to our value proposition and streamlining all aspects of AIB operations.

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Diya Lakra

Marketing and Events Officer



Diya coordinates the Professional Excellence Awards, CPD initiatives, and a range of member events across Australia. Her efforts will ensure that our events continue to provide professional recognition, high-quality learning opportunities, and valuable networking experiences.

diya.lakra@aib.org.au

Mikhaila Mills

Membership Officer



Mikhayla leads our member services with dedication, focusing on enriching the member experience. She is working to streamline processes, strengthen engagement, and ensure our members feel supported and connected throughout their professional journey.

membership@aib.org.au

Sue Bruce

Company Secretary



Sue, another returning team member, is responsible for accounts receivable and supporting the governance of the Institute. Sue is also your go-to person for raising invoices. In addition, she is upskilling the team in a range of operational procedures, strengthening the organisation's internal capabilities.

cosec@aib.org.au