

# WALKER CORPORATION DELIVERS CANBERRA'S BEST AND MOST SUSTAINABLE OFFICE BUILDING

## DEEWR HQ

**MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY :** Leighton Contractors  
**DEVELOPER :** Walker Corporation Pty Ltd  
**PROJECT MANAGER :** Walker Corporation Pty Ltd  
**PROJECT END VALUE :** \$280million  
**COMPLETION :** May 2010  
**ARCHITECT :** May + Russell Architects Pty Ltd  
**WORKPLACE DESIGN INTERIORS :** Woodhead International

Walker Corporation has completed the construction of the new 40,000sqm headquarters for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in Canberra, ahead of schedule.

The \$280 million A-Grade facility, located at 50 Marcus-Clarke Street on the former QEII site, has achieved a 6 Green Star Office Design rating issued by the Green Building Council of Australia – making it arguably Canberra's most environmentally sustainable building. The building is targeted to also achieve a 5 Star As Built Rating for both the base building and fitout and a 5 star NABERS Energy rating.

Walker has also completed an extensive fit-out of the building, which features inter-connecting stairs, state-of-the-art ergonomic workstations, low VOC paints and materials.

A key feature of the fit-out works are the Bio-Filtration or 'living' walls covered with specially selected plants that will act as a natural filter for indoor air, removing airborne

contaminants. Advanced technologies put to use in the building include tri-generation of power, heating and cooling for air conditioning, grey water treatment and energy efficient lighting combined with maximisation of natural light to the working floor plate.

Executive Chairman of Walker Corporation, Mr Lang Walker, said "The new headquarters is the best building in Canberra in terms of quality of facilities, finishes, floor-space ratio and sustainable design.

"It's been great for Walker to deliver this building from conception to completion –delivering a balanced work environment, featuring a combination of conventional office space with open plan meeting areas, recreation and health amenities", he added.

The Department has committed to a 15 year lease with Walker, which will own the building for the long-term. The DEEWR headquarters marks the second facility that Walker will deliver for the Commonwealth Government, recently winning a tender to deliver up to 38,000sqm of A-Grade commercial space for the Australian Tax Office in Melbourne.

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## SHELLBAY IMPRESS

There is no doubt that the façade of the new Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in Canberra is impressive, but the work done by Shellbay Stones is also one of the largest to meet the stringent requirements set down for the building to receive a Green Star rating.

Director of Shellbay Stones, Paul Saikali, said the more than 1500sqm of marble walls, 2500sqm of marble floors and 5000sqm of porcelain which has been laid throughout the building have all been put down using a special green star adhesive.

It is not the first major contract on which Shellbay Stones has used the green star rated adhesive to comply with the environmental standards. A similar glue was used on the Bungendore headquarters of the Australian Defence Force.

Shellbay Stones, which specialises in the manufacture and installation of quality stone facades, tiling, and paving has been putting the finishing touches on commercial and government buildings for more than 20 years. Paul Saikali said the DEEWR building involved 10 employees and took about six months to complete.

“The job involved marble flooring and walls in all lobby areas up to level 11, as well tiling wet areas throughout,” Saikali said.

“And the marble walls were all pin fixed, as well as using the green star adhesive. “The marble for the floors was sourced from Turkey, the wall material was from China and the porcelain from Italy.

“There was a lot of discussion about design on this job, but no more than on any other major contract. The marble is all polished with a light daisy pattern on the floors.” Shellbay Stones is also currently working on another Canberra landmark, the Australian National Gallery which will be completed in march 2010.and will be starting Westfields Sydney City in April 2010.

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## A VISUAL EXPERIENCE

Walking up or down each of the 12 levels of the new Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations building in Canberra is a visual experience you're not likely to find in many other government offices.

The towering glass panes encapsulating the stair voids, the clean lines of the steel stairs and the glass balustrade work well together to create a sense of unencumbered naturalness. Crytran Pty Ltd has been working on the DEEWR building since July 2009, involved in its entire fabrication, supply and installation of the specialised architectural inter-tenancy steel stairs from Level 1 to 12 featuring and including steel stair risers, timber treads, glass balustrade and a full height glass structure surrounding each stair void.

Crytran Pty Ltd specialises in the new construction of projects for commercial and industrial property; corporate interior fit-outs and make goods; exterior refurbishment of buildings; retail shop-fitting and refurbishment; special use facilities & government and education. The company has been operating since 1999 and director Pablo Brossard says the DEEWR inter-tenancy stair project has been a very exciting and challenging project. “There are not many companies that can do this kind of work,” Brossard said. “It is architecturally designed and we manufactured

everything in co-ordination with the architect's brief to deliver a product that is environmentally designed to meet Green Star accreditation.”

Brossard said although there were tricky Occupational Health and Safety issues to overcome relating to working at heights and on edges, Crytran Pty Ltd ensured that all of its workmen were qualified with the applicable installation certificates needed to work off heights and complete the job safely. Each full height glass panel measured almost three metres, with approximately 1.5 tonnes of steel per level which was installed with specialised machinery. “It looks very impressive when you look up or down through the inter-tenancy stair voids. Its design certainly maximises the use of natural lighting,” says Brossard.



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