

## FIGHTING MENTAL ILLNESS IN CONSTRUCTION

Winslow Constructors are raising awareness of mental illness within the construction industry with a huge Hitachi ZX360 excavator and painting it the signature blue of leading support group beyondblue.

This new initiative addresses the stark fact that construction workers suffer amongst the highest rates of suicide of any occupation in Australia – over twice as likely as in any other industry. Trevor Lockwood, CEO, Winslow commented “We continue to hear very sobering stories about the toll mental illness takes on the civil construction industry, and as an industry leader we have decided to tackle this critical issue head on. At Winslow we want to ensure every one of our employees is able to go home after work both physically and mentally fit. So it’s vital for them, and their families, that we head mental illness off at the pass wherever possible, and ‘Big Blue’ is just one way we wish to encourage our staff to take action if they find themselves anxious, depressed or even suicidal.”

The arrival of the Hitachi excavator ‘Big Blue’ to Winslow’s Rathdowne by Villawood site (Wollert) on Tuesday 15 May 2018 marks the launch of a powerful initiative by Winslow. Former AFL player Danny Frawley spoke on the topic of depression and the work he is doing in this space.

Mr Lockwood continued “Over the years, we have provided training and support to our staff in the area of depression and mental well

being, but felt we needed a bigger ice breaker to boost awareness in what is primarily a male dominated industry where people think all they need is to be ‘tough and resilient.’”

“It doesn’t matter how tough or resilient someone is, anyone can still be assailed by anxiety or depression.” Mates in Construction, a charity set up specifically to address suicide prevention in the construction industry, have the stats to back up Winslow’s initiative. According to their research, “every year 190 Australians who work in the industry take their own lives – that’s one every second day.”

Throughout 2018, and with help from beyondblue, Winslow will provide employees with greater access to resources, and improved support networks and fundraising through some positive initiatives.

beyondblue CEO, Georgie Harman said, “We are thrilled that Winslow recognise the importance of talking about this tough topic to improve the health and wellbeing of their workforce, and for taking a big step in the right direction. I can’t wait to see the ‘Big Blue’ in action onsite, generating awareness as it works away. We’re very thankful to organisations like Winslow for their support and demonstrating it in such a visually impactful and dramatic way.”

Trevor Lockwood added “We are grateful to Hitachi for their involvement and letting us paint their excavator. Hopefully the new colour can remind everyone – even just one



Hitachi excavator ‘Big Blue’.

person – that if they are having a difficult time, they are not alone at Winslow, there is always help, and always somewhere to turn.”

“As ‘Big Blue’ makes its rounds to various Winslow projects during the year, it will hopefully keep mental health at the front of our workers minds and encourage people to talk and reach out. That’s what ‘Big Blue’ symbolises, because nothing, ultimately, is as important as the safety, health and the well being of our workforce.”

Mental health professionals are available 24/7 at the beyondblue Support Service on 1300 22 4636. Web chat is also available at [beyondblue.org.au/getsupport](http://beyondblue.org.au/getsupport)

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## CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES ON FIRST STAGE OF MELBOURNE SQUARE

Multiplex has officially commenced construction on the first stage of the \$2.8 billion Melbourne Square development at Southbank, set to become Melbourne’s largest mixed use urban precinct, with the official sod turning celebrated at the site.

Designed by Cox Architecture, Melbourne Square is one of the largest development projects in Victoria, and will feature six towers of varying heights as well as a new 3,700m<sup>2</sup> public park for Southbank.

Over 7,000 tonnes of steel and 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete will be used in the first stage of construction, with the workforce expected to peak at approximately 600 people. It is due for completion in late 2020.

Stage One of Melbourne Square consists of two high end residential towers of 54 and 69 levels and 1,048 apartments and will also deliver essential amenity to the local area.

This includes the delivery of a retail precinct incorporating shopping, dining and café facilities as well as Southbank’s first full line supermarket, through a recently announced deal with Woolworths. The expansive public park will also be delivered as part of Stage One.



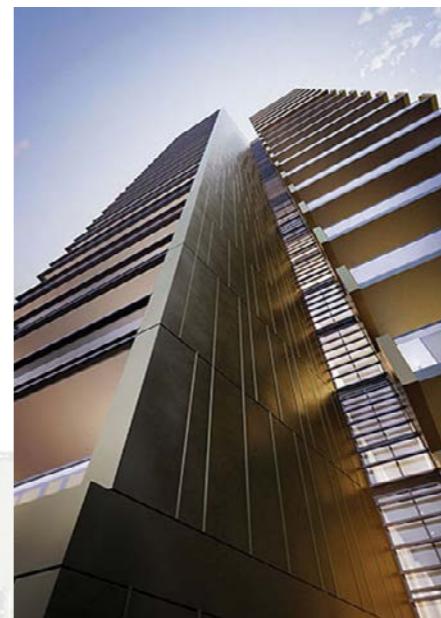
The visionary project will play a pivotal role in bringing much needed community amenity to Southbank, with the entire city block revitalised to become a vibrant vertical village and deliver much needed green open space and services to the precinct.

## FIRE SAFETY HOUSE CALL

ACS is currently receiving numerous phone calls enquiring about the safety of the current façade cladding on a particular building. Both commercial and residential building owners seem highly concerned about the fire safety of their current façade. Hence ACS now has a special division that will look after these delicate areas.

We understand the sensitive nature of these “house calls”, and always align ourselves with highly professional fire engineers when visiting these sites, in the first instance to assess the actual products used on the building in question, and secondly to offer a viable solution, if indeed anything needs to be done at all.

It is a relative inexpensive exercise, for complete piece of mind. Should you wish for ACS to inspect YOUR building, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss.



Peter McIntyre  
CEO  
Engineers Australia

### A CLEAR MESSAGE FOR THE INDUSTRIES FUTURE

There are many challenges facing our building and construction sector in what is a critical time amidst the nation’s big infrastructure spend. Consistency and clarity of regulation, and its proper enforcement, are of paramount concern. In 2018, there is a rare opportunity to reform the system nation wide. The COAG Building Ministers Forum (BMF) asked for, and have now received, advice on what to do. They have been handed 24 recommendations from the Shergold and Weir review report, “Building Confidence: improving the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry across Australia.”

Engineers Australia has a clear message for the BMF members: we have the recommendations, so let’s get on with implementing them. A simple example of what is required is a national and uniform approach to critical stage inspections in all jurisdictions – both in compliance and enforcement. Current state based rules around this have led to a patchwork of building inspection stages and this irregularity is creating uncertainty within the construction sector and in turn compromising safety and productivity. Engineers Australia supports the roll out of a nationally consistent mandatory onsite inspection process throughout the construction phases.

We agree there is a pressing need for a central oversight role independent from industry to give the community assurance that structures are built according to the agreed national standards. A key community safety factor is ensuring that those working in the construction sector have the qualifications and experience necessary to do a good job. Engineers Australia has for many years strongly lobbied for a mandatory registration scheme of engineers in the building and construction sector. Now, the BMF have an unequivocal recommendation from their appointed independent experts that registration of engineers (and others) is essential and must be rolled out uniformly across the country.





Patricia Forsythe  
Executive Director  
Sydney Business  
Chamber

#### CBD'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT

With the contract let to build an underground walkway and underground platforms at Central Station for a new metro line, commuters can look forward to a significant upgrade for the country's busiest station. Construction company Laing O'Rourke was awarded the \$955 million Central Walk contract in March and we see this as the beginning of what must be a transformation of the whole station precinct.

Central Station is a major gateway to Sydney and the future Metro system will create an opportunity to kick start a wave of new jobs and economic investment around it. Located close to the emerging innovation precinct at Camperdown/Ultimo and with major universities, health and educational facilities and a thriving start up community, the transformation of the broader Central Precinct must be a priority for government.

Redevelopment potentially above and adjoining Central Station will give Sydney a significant chance to create a new commercial, residential and activity hub.

Realising the economic value and creating new places by a development that maximises the rail corridor will create a vibrant and bustling precinct for commuters, office workers and residents, and will integrate transport planning with broader city goals.

The new metro system will service thousands of passengers on a daily basis and big transport infrastructure projects such as this one, are the building blocks of major urban renewal.

Linking land use planning and transport projects will give Sydney the best chance to succeed as a global city.

## BARANGAROO SOUTH TAKES A BOW AS AUSTRALIA'S BEST DEVELOPMENT FOR 2018



Sydney's largest urban renewal project, Barangaroo South, has been presented with the nation's most prestigious property prize, the RLB Australian Development of the Year. Lendlease was presented with the coveted honour at the Property Council of Australia/Rider Levett Bucknall Innovation and Excellence Awards in Sydney.

"Barangaroo South is a truly iconic international project which has recalibrated the way Australians think about precinct scale urban renewal," says the Property Council's Chief Executive, Ken Morrison.

On completion in 2023, Barangaroo South will house 23,000 office workers, 2,000 residents, a 6 Star hotel and 80 plus cafés, bars, restaurants and retail outlets across more than half a million square metres of space. "Lendlease has combined iconic buildings designed by acclaimed architects with world leading sustainability initiatives that have transformed entire supply chains and challenged large tenants to embrace green business practices," Mr Morrison adds.

"Barangaroo South also throws down the gauntlet to governments around Australia by showing when density is done right, it delivers."

Barangaroo South took home a swag of awards, including WSP Award for Best Sustainable Development – New Buildings and the Liberty Steel Award for Best Mixed Use Development. Lendlease's workplace at Barangaroo was also the winner of the Eagle Lighting Australia Award for Best Workplace Project.

This year, 137 finalists competed for national recognition in 20 categories.

Mirvac's EY Centre was presented with the SAS International Award for Best Office Development. According to RLB's Managing Director NSW, Matthew Harris, the EY Centre is a "new breed of smart buildings in Australia."

"Mirvac's masterpiece is instantly recognisable for its spectacular architecture, and has activated the ground plane and surrounding laneways, creating a well connected bustling precinct," Mr Harris explains. Quantity surveying firm Slattery took home the PwC Award for Diversity for companies with less than 250 employees.

"Diversity is integral to Slattery's business philosophy. Sarah Slattery is the first female to lead any quantity surveying company in Australia, 41% of the firm's workforce is female and half of its growth sector leaders are women. These impressive statistics are well worth applause," says Mr Morrison.

Meanwhile, the Moulis Legal Award for Diversity for companies with more than 250 employees went to Cushman & Wakefield. Mr Morrison says the judges were impressed with Cushman & Wakefield's "diversity culture that permeates all levels of the organisation, and that prioritises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement, gender equity and disability inclusion."

Rebecca Fitzgerald, a senior mechanical engineer with WSP, was awarded the du Chateau Chun Award for Future Leader of the Year. "Rebecca is passionate about buildings and is a role model for other aspiring female engineers wanting a challenging and rewarding career," Mr Harris says.

## THE CHANGING FACE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Australia is facing one of the biggest challenges in its history with an unprecedented spend on infrastructure projects over the next five to seven years. This figure is almost 2.5 times that of the mining boom period; and has exponentially increased with the Australian Government's recent budget announcements for 2018-2019.

Committing to a programme as substantial as this will raise a number of challenges and put significant pressure on the demand for both professional and skilled resources, commodities prices (particularly aggregates and steel), price pressures for lower tier contractors and local authorities, within limited timeframes.

In addition, immigration has imposed greater constraints on what was previously known as the 457 Visa, by introducing higher tariffs and additional levies, generating an anticipated \$2.0-2.5 billion per year in additional government revenue.

Donald Cant Watts Corke suggests that the federal Government immediately address the following key issues: A review of (new and existing) quarry concessions to achieve greater production of aggregates to meet future demand; A review of current steel tonnage demands and the need to work with suppliers to provide additional smelting plants ahead of increased future demand; The need for both the infrastructure and professional services sectors to look at innovative ways to respond to professional and skilled resource shortages, by improving the gender gap and flexibility on working arrangements for parents with young children; and proactive initiatives to control price pressures on lower tier contractors and local authorities.

## KEY APPOINTMENTS FOR CUNDALL SIGNIFY GROWTH STRATEGY IN WA

Cundall has made two senior appointments in Perth as part of their strategy to continue to grow their building services discipline in Western Australia and beyond.

Tony Comerford has been appointed as Electrical Team Leader and Mark Brayshaw as Mechanical Team Leader.

"Cundall has been delivering building services in Perth for the past three years, we have seen a steady increase in work due to repeat business and clients looking for a building services team

where sustainability is a standard part of their service" explains Oliver Grimaldi, who leads Cundall's WA operations.

"With Tony and Mark part of our team, we can take this growth to the next level and take advantage of the predicted growth in the Perth construction market."

Nationally, Cundall has grown in numbers by 20% in the past 12 months and is continuing to recruit across all five Australian offices for a wide range of levels and disciplines.



Lindsay Le Compte  
Executive Director  
Australian Constructors  
Association

#### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CULTURE: A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO CHANGE

Australia's construction industry is embarking on an unprecedented infrastructure boom. This boom will bring with it many challenges, but also offers an opportunity to drive change and leave a legacy for the industry which will be felt for decades to come.

The Australian construction industry is a great adapter to change (examples include advances in safety, sustainability and product/delivery innovation), but one facet which we are yet to crack is industry culture.

Industry culture has its good points, but also its bad. There are great stories of teamwork and mateship, a sense of belonging and pride, but equally stories of isolation, mental health concerns, poor work/life balance and inappropriate workplace conduct. The negative aspects of this culture drive people away from the industry, a situation which we cannot afford to continue.

Culture impacts and is driven by all those operating in or connected to the construction industry. It is a complicated problem which requires the key players (including clients, contractors, suppliers, consultants and employees) to partner to address.

Working in partnership and in a non competitive or adversarial manner, we will be able to change the industry culture for the better – making industry more productive, more attractive and a place for anyone to have a long and rewarding career.

The opportunity to change culture is ripe, and many are already taking up the cause. Working in partnership, this legacy will endure longer and benefit society more than the infrastructure we are about to build.



Sarah Bachmann  
CEO  
National Precast  
Association

## 2018 NAWIC NSW AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE PRESS FOR PROGRESS

The awards, which the NSW Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) has hosted for 22 years, celebrate the contributions made by women at all career levels and in all sectors of the construction industry.

According to NAWIC's NSW President Sarah Hogan, the MeToo and Time's Up movements, and campaigns like International Women's Day's #PressforProgress, reflect changing values within the business and broader community.

"As the world changes for women, NAWIC is determined to maintain the momentum," Ms Hogan says. "NAWIC embodies these important initiatives in our own industry – fairness, inclusion and equity of opportunity. The NAWIC Awards for Excellence are an important vehicle to advance the careers of women, and to enhance the property and construction industry too."

In 2017, NAWIC received 70 nominations across 11 categories. Last year's winners included JLL Project Director, Esti Cogger, who was presented with the coveted Lendlease Crystal Vision Award for Advancing the Interests of Women in the Construction Industry. Ms Cogger was selected for making great inroads into the retention and promotion of women in her organisation.

The 2018 NAWIC Awards for Excellence will be held the International Convention Centre Sydney on Thursday 23 August. Acclaimed journalist, TV presenter and vocal campaigner for #MeToo, Jessica Rowe, will MC the gala event. Dami Im, who has represented Australia at Eurovision, will feature as the headline act.

## TOP GLOBAL COST CONSULTANT FOR THIRD YEAR

Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) has been voted the number one global cost consultant partner for the third year running in the Building Design World Architecture 100 Survey 2018.

This endorsement recognises the high quality of service the firm continues to deliver in helping architects bring projects to life.

The annual World Architecture 100 rankings are compiled by surveying over 1,250 leading architecture practices from across the globe.

### 'MECCANO®' BUILDING BOOM WITH PRECAST

Social change in Australian cities is prompting building designs to move away from the typical house on a quarter acre block to low maintenance townhouses, and medium density living is on the rise. As a result, the past five years has seen several Australian capital cities experiencing an apartment led construction boom. In August 2016 Australia experienced its biggest construction boom since the late 1980's. With occupancy rates rising nationally, led by 85% plus levels in Sydney and Melbourne, new apartment building developments have been a financially attractive proposition.

As builders and developers look for construction alternatives that offer faster, safer, and more economical solutions, precast concrete has been increasingly specified. Offering a highly efficient Meccano® style of construction, the precast industry has been thriving within a buoyant market.

In Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, there are some signs of an oversupply of apartments; in Sydney, however, there still appears to be an under supplied unit market. So, while the inner city housing boom has met or surpassed market demands, the recent decline in building approvals suggest that the boom is approaching its peak and will soon start to settle before declining. Governments around the country are bracing themselves for the inevitable end of the boom, a boom which has been one of the main supporters of the economy since mining declined.

Going forward, precast concrete will continue to play an integral role in the future of residential and commercial construction. What once may have been primarily functional, yet possibly unattractive high density social living complexes, are now highly aesthetically pleasing and creative medium density living quarters.

Laing O'Rourke Business Woman of the Year Award; MPA Award for Achievement in Construction, Refurbishment and Fitout; Holcim Award for Contribution to Sustainability; John Holland Award for Team Innovation; HASSELL Award for Innovation in Design; Probuild Project Manager Award; Roberts Pizzarotti Award for Contribution to a Project's Development; Procore Scholarship for Future Leaders; CPB Contractors Tradesperson Scholarship; CBRE University Scholarship.

Each year, NAWIC helps more women to pursue leadership roles, showcase their talents and expand their career potential," Ms Hogan adds. "We urge individuals and companies from across the industry to nominate their established and emerging leaders, exceptional projects and extraordinary teamwork so that we can continue to press for progress."

Download the awards nomination booklet, nominate an individual or team, and book tickets for the gala awards evening: [www.nawic.com.au/Web/Chapters/NSW/NSW\\_Awards.aspx](http://www.nawic.com.au/Web/Chapters/NSW/NSW_Awards.aspx)

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In 2018, awards will be presented in 11 categories: Lendlease Crystal Vision Award;

## NEW DEVELOPMENT IN WEST MELBOURNE REDEFINES LUXURY AFFORDABILITY

The Viapac Group is shaking up the Melbourne luxury living sector with their development 'Townhaus' which will be built on Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne in 2019.

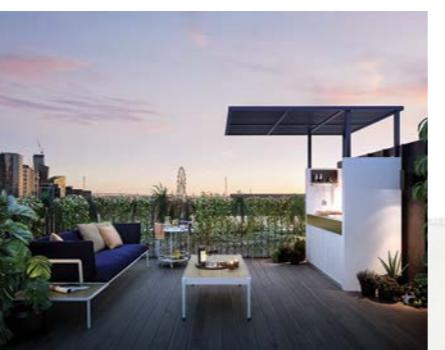
The development will transform the area and the concept of affordable luxury. A warehouse/industrial inspired residential space, Townhaus will comprise 37 townhouses offering a selection of two and three bedroom residences.

All will feature luxury materials, stunning finishes and European appliances underpinned by thoughtful design quietly emphasising spacial simplicity while honouring the origins of its location and former industrial use.

"West Melbourne is one of Melbourne's most iconic areas. A powerhouse of industry for Melbourne, the area has really changed over the last few years, becoming a vibrant residential hub that is close to the city, restaurants and cafes, transport and Docklands," Daniel Stiller, Viapac Development Manager for Townhaus.

"When the opportunity came up to purchase the site, we immediately knew we could create something special which celebrated the rich history of the area. "But we also wanted to deliver homes for people which not only offered luxury living, we wanted to ensure they were financially accessible – so we developed the idea of 'aflex' living. Essentially, we are creating luxury residences which will be affordable and within reach for a lot of people."

"We have achieved this by designing the residences in a way that capture the feel and style of the original site in a minimalistic way. It is the use of simple, linear lines, rustic form and practical materials that place greater focus on the creative use of the space that really sets these residences apart from others."



"The result is that purchasers know they are getting a premium located luxury product with the high end fitout at a relatively low cost – and we are very proud of this."

Townhaus will be within reach for many wanting to live in the city and enjoy the comforts of luxury living.

Townhaus commences development in late 2018 and will be complete in 2020. Townhaus residences are now available for sale off the plan. A stunning display is open for viewing at 222 Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne.

"We anticipate that Townhaus will generate significant interest. The development offers an exceptional standard of premium city living at affordable prices not seen in Melbourne before. Our 'aflex' approach is going to disrupt luxury living in Melbourne and we are really excited about this," Daniel Stiller added.

"West Melbourne is an historic and fast changing area that should be enjoyed by those who want to embrace the benefits of inner city living, and with the arrival of Townhaus, we are making this possible."

The name Townhaus is inspired by one of the icons of modern art, Bauhaus. Further information about Townhaus can be obtained from its onsite display by appointment. To arrange an appointment, simply go to [www.townhaus.com.au](http://www.townhaus.com.au)



### AUSTRALIAN CONTRACTS MAKES A BUMPY RIDE THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION BOOM

The market is buoyant and the pipeline of infrastructure projects continues to have an enduring longevity. Many of these projects are complex and politically charged. The stakes are understandably high, which inevitably carries high risk. But where is the greatest risk to our infrastructure aspirations?

In my view, Australia does not have sufficient capacity across its existing network of Tier One contractors to deliver the backlog of projects required to meet our current and future infrastructure needs. In the last 10 years there has been a need to award contracts to international entities with latent capacity in the domestic market being utilised.

The contractors that come to Australian shores are not naïve; they are sophisticated, experienced and commercially astute entities. Due diligence shows they know how to build, and are financially capable of funding their endeavours. Competition is always good for the consumer. The propensity to procure mega projects in Australia on a design and construct basis, coupled with a bias towards bespoke contracts or, at the very least, heavily amended standard forms often results in disproportionate risk loading on contractors. That is not to say contractors should not understand this risk. The same could be said for the Australian subcontractors they engage.

These challenges frequently result in drawn out claims and disputes, causing delays and a breakdown in relationships. Many think disputes are inevitable, and if this is the disappointing truth, the contract should provide for an equitable starting point, rather than promoting a sense of grievance from the outset. Distressed projects do not optimise value for any stakeholder, and may prove to be a barrier in the transition of one off project players into established success stories.



Roxanne Millar  
General Manager  
Bastion Effect

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF REPUTATION

Reputation takes a long time to build and a second to lose, yet many companies rarely invest in their reputation until they're trying to claw it back. It is one of your most important assets, but its importance is often overlooked.

In a landscape where planning approvals are becoming more challenging to secure, contracts harder to win and margins smaller; reputation has an important role to play.

Building a positive reputation and maintaining it is a long term exercise. It includes presenting a positive and consistent story to the market, promoting the high quality of your work and creating a culture of openness and transparency in how your organisation operates and deals with clients, contractors and the community. All of which only works if the words accurately reflect the actions. You can only communicate a strong reputation if you have done the work to build one.

A strong reputation and great practices can be strong insulators at a time of crisis.

In property and construction reputation is strongly influenced by communication. The best companies communicate well, engage with their communities, listen, learn and act. They pursue a two way dialogue. Nowhere is this more important than in the planning process where meaningful community engagement can influence approvals and also bring a community around to an issue.

In a tight and challenging market, don't overlook the benefits of reputation building. Any competitive advantage is just that, and it could just save you when the going gets tough.

## WOOD A KEY PLANK IN THE BUSINESS CASE FOR BRINGING NATURE INTO THE OFFICE

Builders and specifiers looking to construct buildings that boost worker productivity should consider using more of one of the world's oldest and most sustainable materials in their office fitouts: wood.

That's the takeout from world first research by strategic market research firm Pollinate and the University of Canberra.

Based on a survey of 1,000 indoor Australian workers, the research provides fresh evidence to underpin the business case for biophilia – the principle that exposure to nature increases human wellbeing.

The study paints a bleak picture of workers' current access to nature at work with less than half (47%) enjoying access to natural light, only two in five (38%) being able to see indoor plants, a quarter (26%) unable to see any natural looking wooden surfaces and almost half (46%) spending less than an hour outdoors on work days.

The study found that the more natural looking wooden surfaces workers could see from their workstation, the higher their workplace satisfaction and wellbeing.

Associate Professor Jacki Schirmer from the University of Canberra said the results held true even after rigorous analysis that



controlled for factors known to impact on the wellbeing of workers such as age, income, gender and workplace culture.

"These results are exciting, for the first time providing solid evidence to support the use of wood as part of bringing nature into workplaces," she said. "We are always looking for ways to improve health and wellbeing, and this research points to ways we can achieve that in the places many people spend a lot of their time – the workplace."

The work has implications for businesses, because a large body of research has shown that workers who are more satisfied with their work and have higher wellbeing have better work productivity, and reduced rates of absenteeism – which means improving worker wellbeing has real benefits for businesses."

Over 80% of workers (82%) exposed to eight or more wooden surfaces in their workplace reported being 'satisfied or very satisfied' with work, compared to over two thirds (69%) exposed to five to seven wooden surfaces and half (53%) with no wooden surfaces.

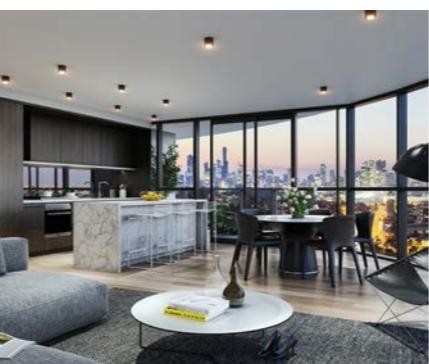
Employees working in offices with natural wooden surfaces on average also reported higher personal productivity, mood, concentration, clarity, confidence and optimism. The effect on wellbeing was greatest when wood was used in combination with other natural elements such as plants, water features and natural light.

Associate Professor Schirmer said: "We know it's good for us to spend time outdoors interacting with nature, but with people spending so much time indoors, there's increasing recognition of the potential benefits of bringing nature into the workplace and the home."

"The academic world is becoming increasingly switched on to biophilia as an area warranting real research and attention, and some engineering degrees are starting to include it as a subject."

"Importantly, wood is a particularly useful tool for bringing nature into the workplace in situations where it is not feasible to retro fit other changes, such as increased natural light."

## 661 CHAPEL STREET BUILD COMPLETED



661 Chapel Street was built for developer Gamuda Land. The project was designed by Bird De La Coeur Architects. Located in the exclusive suburb of South Yarra, 661 Chapel Street epitomises quality luxury living with exceptional city views. The development comprises 116 premium apartments with world class amenities.

Doka jump screens were used, which meant up to 80% of wind was blocked during construction. Crema Constructions was one of the first construction companies in Melbourne to adopt the use of Doka jump screens. Project management including pre-planning and scheduling was a focus, to maximise the assets of the site, and to minimise the challenges.

Crema was an early adopter of Italian Faresin Formwork system for this project, which proved both time and cost efficient. Faresin Formwork is also reusable which reduces onsite waste.



The construction team minimised the number of lifts for both precast and formwork completed by each crane, and prefabrication was completed offsite. Both had a combined timesaving effect on the practical completion date.

## GOOD NEWS FOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

The Federal Government's report on the Review of Security of Payment Laws is good news for electrical contractors who are frequently the last in a long chain to receive payment and so carry the most risk should a company fall into receivership during the project.

"The report findings address the feedback we've been receiving from our members for many years and we welcome the recommendations," said Suresh Manickam, CEO National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA). "NECA has long been calling for measures to reduce the risk of non-payment due to insolvency. Late payments and unfair contract terms that operate to prevent payment are a major issue for electrical contractors. As the majority of electrical contractors are small to medium enterprises, family owned and

run businesses, they are particularly susceptible to cash flow issues and non-payment can be devastating," said Manickam.

Current legislation around Security of Payments is complex and inconsistent across the different states and territories delaying payments and making it difficult for contractors to lodge claims.

The recommendations in the review will simplify the process and guarantee prompt payment for all those involved in the project. The recommendation to adopt a single legislative model – based on the East Coast Model of Security of Payment Laws – and the establishment of a system of statutory trusts to apply throughout the payment chain, is a win for our sector providing much greater protection and security for small businesses and subcontractors.



John Carleton  
Director  
Linesight

#### DRIVING INNOVATION IN CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Over the last decade, rapidly evolving technologies have been disrupting almost every industry. However, construction is amongst the least digitised sectors globally, according to the McKinsey Global Institute's digitisation report. Belatedly, the global construction industry is now at the cusp of a new era in terms of technological innovation.

In Australia declines in general building and residential have been offset by gains in non residential and engineering, up 5.7% and 4.9% respectively. As Government led major infrastructure projects continue to boost construction and engineering, a wide range of new technologies, processes and innovations are emerging that are helping companies keep pace with demand.

These include: More advanced techniques and processes: High quality visualisation tools such as Lidar are using drone or similar unobtrusive technologies to survey in challenging environments. When applied across both Cost and Project Management they can result in increased productivity with regards to quantity extraction, estimation and change management; Collaboration and productivity: Digitising workflows can boost productivity, enabling more seamless collaboration and communication and offering significant time savings. Mobile devices and cloud based technologies are facilitating real time document and information sharing, onsite collaboration and issue tracking; The application of the Internet of Things (IoT): this offers huge benefits, enabling site equipment and machinery to communicate with a centralised platform, helping to measure performance parameters and in turn boosting productivity; Alternative and innovative materials: Introducing more environmentally friendly materials and processes saves on cost and offers increased durability and buildability, including composite sheet piles and fiberglass reinforcements.



Adam Beck  
Executive Director  
Smart Cities  
Council

#### ENTER THE SMART CITY ERA

Anyone who's sat idle in traffic, battled with poor public transport or agonised over the cost of housing knows that Australia's cities face a host of challenges.

These challenges – rapid urbanisation, population growth, climate change and a widening gap between rich and poor among them – aren't unique to Australia.

But as one of the world's most urbanised countries, Australia's collective future will be determined by the success or failure of our cities.

Australia's cities are magnets for human talent, capital and opportunity – but we are increasingly in fierce competition with other economies around the world. We need the right tools, investment and approach to take advantage of our emerging knowledge economy. And we need a new way of thinking about our cities. A smart way.

A smart city is one that uses technology, data and intelligent design to enhance liveability, workability and sustainability.

The Smart Cities Council has developed a readiness guide to help people in the built environment advance the smart cities agenda, including clear definitions, benefits and principles that can be applied to projects today.

At the heart of the guide is a checklist to help people in our industry work with clients and collaborators to build understanding and capacity in smart cities.

With the right planning and investment, urban leaders can build better, smarter cities.

Download the Smart Cities Readiness Guide:  
<https://rg.smartcitiescouncil.com/>

## AUSTRALIAN FIRST RAIL STRADDLE CARRIER WRAPS UP OPERATION

The Caulfield to Dandenong level crossing removal project reached the end of a crucial phase of construction, with large scale specialist machinery dismantled and a final section elevated rail deck complete.

An intensive logistical exercise contributed to this achievement, involving the first ever Australian use of a straddle carrier and gantry crane configuration in a live rail corridor.

The specialist equipment was used on one specific section of elevated rail that will remove four crossings at Carnegie, Murrumbeena and Hughesdale.

Since February last year, thousands of hours have gone into the process of building, lifting and shifting a total of 174 bridge spans, each ranging from 280 to 420 tonnes. Meanwhile the giant carrier has travelled more than 260km back and forth along the rail line.

Alliance Construction Director Simon Barnes is taking no small amount of pride in what his team has achieved. "This project leaves an important legacy not only to the community but to industry," he says.

"We have taken a construction technique usually associated with long viaducts built through open terrain, and successfully – and safely – applied to an Australian residential environment," he says.



"Adapting and evolving that technique to a local suburban environment has led us to form relationships with engineering experts around the world."

The new skills, processes and protocols associated with a national first have meant an extensive amount of behind the scenes activity. It's also necessitated an extensive training programme.

"We've trained around three hundred workers to operate the carrier, gantry cranes and support beams as well as cast and tension the spans that make up the rail deck," explained Simon.

"It's not insignificant from an industry perspective as we will retain this knowledge in Australia along with a whole range of highly transferrable skills."

The Caulfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removal Project is being delivered by an Alliance consisting of Lendlease, CPB Contractors, WSP, Aurecon, LXRA and Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM). As a consortium, this group is working to remove nine level crossings on the Cranbourne/Pakenham line in Melbourne's south east, constructing a raised rail line set to create 22.5 hectares of new public open space.

Elevated rail is largely a new way of removing level crossings in Melbourne and the project has attracted its share of controversy. However, now with the design concept close to being realised, the project has garnered increasing support from the wider community.

"We are really looking forward to the community fully experiencing and appreciating our vision."

"Once the land is opened up, people will be able to walk freely around and under the elevated line – that will be a game changer for suburbs that have been divided for as long as anyone can remember."



## KNX BECOMES TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION IN AUSTRALIA

Australia has adopted KNX, the only global standard for home and building automation, after it became the European Standard in 2003. Australia building market will benefit from a technical specification that promotes guaranteed interoperability, future proofing and more product choice from more than 400 manufacturers worldwide.

One of the leading companies in Australia that specialised in KNX is SyncWise Smart Building Solutions providing Australia wide services.

SyncWise is a certified KNX Partner and has a rich and proven expertise in KNX Projects in Australia and overseas, be it Commercial or Residential. Their Strategic Partnerships with giant KNX manufacturers such as ABB, provides SyncWise a leading position in the market. SyncWise is able to provide a cost effective, tailor made and future proof home and building automation solutions. One of their major on going projects is the Cairns Performing Arts Centre where SyncWise is implementing cutting edge and complex KNX Lighting Control Solutions.



## MGS ANNOUNCES NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

MGS Architects is pleased to announce the appointment of Katherine Sundermann to the position of Associate Director.

As an urban designer with a background in architecture and planning, she leads major projects such as university masterplans, creative precinct strategies and urban renewal frameworks.

She has significant experience with campus masterplanning and stakeholder consultation, as project leader on the major university masterplans for UNSW, University of Wollongong, Monash University and La Trobe University, and has contributed to strategies for creative precincts in Cremorne and central Ballarat.

Katherine is passionate about creating the framework for architecturally and socially diverse urban areas, drawing on her research into Dutch urban renewal and

citizen led development to inform urban renewal projects.

Katherine is a studio leader at the University of Melbourne, running an annual study trip to the Netherlands in collaboration with TU Delft and Deltametropolis Association. Entitled 'Opportunistic Urbanism', this studio aims to engage architecture and urban design students with the 'Dutch approach' to urbanism, seeking to integrate the often segregated fields of architecture, urban design and planning.

She has a post professional Master in Urbanism from TU Delft, focusing on regional design, performative urban design and collaborative planning, and a Master of Architecture with Distinction from RMIT University, Melbourne.

This promotion reflects Katherine's ongoing leadership role within MGS Architects, and her passion for strategic thinking focussing on the future of our cities.



Dr. Benjamin Coorey  
CEO  
Archistar

#### WHY ARE COMPANIES MOVING TO AUTOMATED FEASIBILITY REPORTS?

Feasibility reports play a crucial role in new development projects. You use them to figure out if you can do the job before you get started. There's an increasing move towards automation in this area.

When you propose for a new project, the design itself is not your only concern. Construction firms look at feasibility reports to ensure they can pull the work off. Developers want to know how they can maximise profit from their development project. And they'll want to know fast.

This is where feasibility reports come into play. A feasibility report covers building requirements, and usually takes local government issues into account. The report includes zoning, planning permission, projected revenues and costs.

As a result, you must collect a huge amount of data to generate your reports. In traditional reporting, you'll go through this data manually. This is a time consuming process that can take weeks. That's not something you want when under pressure to deliver fast results. On top of that, sifting through so much information prevents you from focusing on other areas of the project.

There is a solution. There's a growing trend of automation in feasibility reports and urban planning tools. Feasibility reports that used to take weeks can now be done in minutes.

It is certainly worth exploring the new tools being produced. Our R+D team at Archistar is investing a significant amount of resources in this area to fast track feasibility reports and seeing great results.