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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Australia's insulators call for cut in building sector emissions**

Australia's insulation industry is actively supporting the establishment of a national plan to reduce emissions in the Australian building sector to zero by 2050.

Under the Paris Climate Change Agreement signed in April, Australia has committed to a transition to zero net emissions by 2050. The national building sector currently contributes about a quarter of Australia's national greenhouse gas emissions and represents a major opportunity for emission reductions.

A new report titled Low Carbon, High Performance shows how Australia's building sector can deliver up to 28% of Australia's emissions reduction target, save \$20 billion by 2030, creating healthier, more productive cities using a suite of targeted policies.

Insulation Australasia, which represents Australian and New Zealand insulation manufacturers, fabricators and installers, is a member of the Energy Efficiency and Emissions Task Group established by the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) to develop a national plan to achieve net zero emissions across the building sector.

ASBEC recently released the Low Carbon, High Performance report authored by ClimateWorks Australia, an independent research organisation founded to accelerate emission reduction in Australia. Key report findings show that buildings account for nearly a quarter of Australia's emissions so strong action in buildings is essential for Australia to meet its international obligations for zero net emissions under the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Insulation Australasia Chair Scott Gibson says the report clearly outlines a policy roadmap to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

"The building sector can reduce emissions right now by more than half with the introduction of improved levels of energy efficiency and an 'envelope first' path to net zero. This path starts with improved envelope insulation and glazing. After which the optimisation of services and appliances, coupled with the decarbonisation of the grid via renewable energy closes the gap to a net zero building," Mr Gibson says.

"The technology is already there and in use, however strong policies and urgent action by Federal, State and Territory governments are critical to addressing existing barriers and accelerating outcomes. We must urgently establish a national plan, set strong mandatory minimum standards, create targeted incentives, reform the energy market, ensure available data is more readily accessible and further expand research and education measures."

Mr Gibson says just five years of delay in implementing the opportunities in buildings could lead to \$24 billion in wasted energy costs and over 170 megatonnes of lost emission reduction opportunities by 2050. Australia's thermal performance requirements are low compared to Europe and there's an opportunity to improve these for implementation in updates planned for the National Construction Code for introduction in 2019.

"There is also an urgent need to address the issue of product compliance and the 'as built as designed' issues on site, to ensure stated building energy efficiency performance is delivered as

designed. Any reforms, including increased building envelope thermal efficiency and the introduction of the ASBEC Low Carbon, High Performance road map will be nullified without proper policing and enforcement of product compliance by our State regulators."



Scott Gibson

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**Editors:**

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[Click here](#) to view the ASBEC report in full.