



2019

A year of impact!

Dear ASBEC members

As the haze of the NSW bushfires gives new meaning to the 'big smoke' of Sydney, urgent action on climate change is top of mind. It's clear that there is significant work to do.

ASBEC and our members have a vision of an Australia where our built environment is a key part of the climate change solution. This year, thanks to our members, we've made some great advances towards realising this vision.

ASBEC's impact is made possible through the close involvement and generous support of our members and it is a genuine pleasure to work in an environment of such camaraderie and passion.

Here's what we have to celebrate in 2019:

Trajectory puts us on the right path

For more than a decade ASBEC has championed the measures needed to reduce emissions and maximise the energy performance of Australia's buildings. Our 4-year joint efforts with ClimateWorks on [Low Carbon, High Performance](#) and the '[Building Code Energy Performance Trajectory project](#)' epitomise this work.

A COAG-approved Trajectory for
Low Energy Buildings!

In 2019, the Council of Australia Governments (COAG) Energy Council approved a [Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings](#). This marks an Australia-wide recognition of the importance of the built environment in emissions reduction, energy use, health, comfort and resilience – and a significant win for ASBEC and our members.

Having gained COAG-level support, our job is now cut out for us in 2020. With the support of our members, ASBEC will be working hard to embed the recommendations in the 'Trajectory' across all levels of Australian government.



Celebrating our successes

Stronger energy efficiency standards for new buildings

Major improvements in the minimum energy efficiency standards for commercial buildings were locked into the [2019 National Construction Code](#). And we now anticipate a leap forward for the [residential energy efficiency standards in 2022](#). Our members have also convened in a Working Group to address compliance with the Code, to ensure these standards are upheld in the delivery of new buildings.

A national focus on better cities

At the urban scale, the reinstatement of a Minister for Cities by the re-elected Coalition Government demonstrates a good multi-partisan level of support for ASBEC's priority of a Federal focus on cities and urban communities.

And we continue to cross our fingers in the hope of a positive outcome for the [Future Cities Cooperative Research Centre](#) bid, which has (again) successfully made its way to the final stage of applications.

Reshaping Infrastructure

We have also been proud to form a partnership with the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia and ClimateWorks to pursue a trajectory for carbon in infrastructure – a sector which influences around 70 per cent of Australia's total annual emissions. Stay tuned for the upcoming release of the *Reshaping Infrastructure* issues paper early next year!

Telling the story of our policy priorities

With the close involvement of our members, we have advanced a range of reports this year, promoting our priorities of [thriving cities](#), [emissions reduction](#), [best practice policies for buildings](#) and [growing the market for sustainable homes](#).



Advancing our built environment priorities

I am so grateful to all ASBEC's members for their help in delivering these outcomes and outputs. Thank you for the generous support, commitment and leadership!

A united voice and trusted reputation

As the trusted voice of a unified group of peak built environment organisations, ASBEC has presented to ministers across all of Australia. We are represented in a range of government reference groups, including the COAG Energy Council Stakeholder Roundtable, Cities Reference Group, NABERS Steering Committee, NatHERS Stakeholder Consultative Group, Commercial Buildings Disclosure Reference Group and the Your Home Consultative Committee.

We have engaged in consultation relating to the 'Trajectory for Low Energy Existing Buildings', the update of the National Energy Productivity Plan and the Expert Panel examining opportunities for further carbon abatement. We have been delighted to support the Community Coalition for Healthy and Affordable Homes, in their efforts to advance energy efficiency standards for both new and existing homes.

**ASBEC Past Deputy President
Romilly Madew and Co-Founder
Peter Verwer awarded an Order of
Australia!**

We have also been immensely proud to see ASBEC's Co-Founder Peter Verwer and past Deputy President Romilly Madew [awarded an Order of Australia](#) in the Australia Day 2019 Honours List.

Punching above our weight

Our collaborative engagement with ASBEC's government and academic members helps us to more productively explore potential policy pathways. The extremely valuable advocacy partnerships we have formed with industry members and community allies have been crucial in advancing ASBEC's strategic priorities.

**Powerful advocacy partnerships
with industry members and
community allies**

With just 1.2 in-house staff members, including our treasured Engagement Officer Pip Louey, ASBEC's bottom line ensures we get maximum value out of every dollar. ASBEC's 2018/19 financial report outlined a healthy operating surplus and equity, providing a financial position which ensures our sustainability for the year ahead.

Solid strategy and robust governance

ASBEC's [2018-2022 strategic plan](#) has helped to keep us focussed and united on our core priorities of Cities and Infrastructure, Energy and Emissions, Sustainable Housing and the Building Code. We have been able to advance our policy objectives through the committed leadership of our Task Group Chairs, generous involvement of our members and remarkable support of a broad range of allies, including community, consumer and environment groups.

ASBEC's Executive Committee continues to provide sound stewardship of our organisation. This year we have welcomed GBCA's new CEO Davina Rooney to ASBEC's Executive Committee, and are farewelling treasured Executive members Phil Wilkinson and Kate Harris.

We are currently reviewing how ASBEC's can continue to meet best practice governance standards, and are very grateful to have the pro bono support of global law firm [K&L Gates](#) in taking this endeavour forward.

Our members are our driving force!

None of this would be possible with our members. As a membership driven organisation, ASBEC is extremely privileged to enjoy such a closely collaborative relationship with the industry, professional, government and academic organisations within our network. Our joint efforts in advocacy have seen us engage with almost 30 ministerial offices in every State and Territory and within the Commonwealth Government, along with numerous allied peak bodies.

Together, we have contributed to a broad range of consultations and submissions including:

- Commercial Building Disclosure program review
- Climate Change Authority's advice on meeting Australia's Paris Agreement commitments
- National Construction Code NCC2022 Energy Efficiency Scoping Study
- Smart Demand Response Capabilities
- Western Australia Climate Change issues paper
- Northern Territory Climate Change Response
- Queensland Minimum Housing Standards
- Victorian regulations for rental housing

Our diverse and well-reputed membership base is strongly engaged with our Task Groups and well represented at ASBEC's ever-growing Council meetings.

Our Council meetings continue to welcome a large range of speakers to a diverse agenda, covering issues ranging from Australia's national outlook to the importance of reality TV to growing the market for sustainable homes!

And at the beginning of this month, we were privileged to be hosted at Canberra's Parliament House for

our very well attended final meeting of 2019. A great way to see the year out!



Great dialogue, knowledge exchange and member engagement at ASBEC's Council meetings

When asked to identify some of the highlights of 2019, here are some of the things that you've had to say:

- *Technical peer reviewed reports and info*
- *Informed collegiate contacts and networks*
- *A great way to stay across all the issues. Also, Building Code Task Group.*
- *Great group of knowledgeable people*
- *Releasing the Growing the Market Sustainable Housing Industry Roadmap, and seeing it being used to drive conversation and change*
- *The collaboration, networking and delivery of real impact - NCC & Trajectory a highlight.*
- *Volume of exciting content each meeting brings.*
- *Good focus areas, good outputs, sensible collaboration, making a real difference*
- *High level thought leadership on key issues, working group deliverables and industry networking.*
- *The trust, goodwill & respect that is built within the member group*
- *Kicking goals through our collective advocacy, particularly in relation to the national agenda on existing buildings.*

My most sincere thanks to every one of you for your incredible contribution towards our common vision of sustainable, productive and resilient buildings, communities and cities in Australia. I am so very proud of the powerful collaborative forum we have built together.



There is so much to celebrate in what we have accomplished together this year. I can't wait to continue the effort of bedding this vision down in 2020!

Suzanne Toumbourou

Executive Director
