

# Low Carbon Built Environment Knowledge Hub

## Workshop 3 results

20 March 2017 @ University of NSW

Attendees	
Matthew Trigg – Consult Australia	Dr Lan Ding – UNSW
Shane Prasad – Australian Window Assoc	Prof Denny McGeorge – UNSW
Brett Pollard – Hassell	Dr Katherine Bridge - UNSW
Mary O’Neill – OEH	Dr Maria Balatbat - UNSW
Dan Ashley – OEH	Afroditi Synnefa – UNSW
Beth Charlton – OEH	Adriana Sanchez - UNSW
Dr Peter Graham – Swinburne Uni	Michelle Zwagerman – Project Manager
Amanda Lawrence – Swinburne / APO	
Apologies	
Heidi Sowerbutts – Multiplex	Stephen Summerhayes – UNSW / CRC HQ
Helen Bell – GBCA	Deo Prasad - UNSW
Jorge Chapa – GBCA	Alistair Sproul – UNSW
Helen Sloan – SSROC	Paul Osmond – UNSW
Sean Mooney – City of Canterbury Bankstown	Giulia Ulpiani – HPA Cluster
Louise Askew – OEH	Jake Nicol – UrbanGrowthNSW
Kathleen Beyer – OEH	Ryan Bondar – Consult Australia

### Workshop context

The Low Carbon Built Environment Knowledge Hub is a CRC LCL project that aims to improve access to quality research and resources to help inform policy makers, practitioners and researchers about best practice for sustainable built environments.

The project is currently in its specification-gathering phase and is seeking input from key stakeholders.

### Workshop purpose

The purpose of this workshop is to identify and discuss, across government, industry and academia, the specification of the Knowledge Hub (KH) on Low Carbon Living in the Built Environment.

Specifically, this workshop will seek to narrow in on...

- How do you share information with your colleagues and partners?
- How do you engage in research projects?
- What are your immediate priorities for collaborative research?

We will also review the specifications so far, on what evidence the users are asking for.

### Workshop results

The following is the consolidation of the feedback provided at the Workshop #3 held on 20<sup>th</sup> March at the University of NSW.

Participant's contributions have been consolidated under the following headings:

- Evidence
- Collaboration
- Priorities for evidence

### Key findings

The key insights from the workshop were:

- **Evidence**

- When used - Evidence was required predominantly in problem analysis, design, review and evaluation phases of an industry project or policymaking.
- Most used - The most popular types of evidence were data sets, case studies, independent report, university reports and existing policy / regulatory impact statements / international standards.
- Least used - The least popular type of evidence were news media, journal articles, blogs, books and trade / professional magazines.
- Attributes - Different users (academic, government or industry) use different attributes when searching for resources.
- Quality - The quality of evidence is important for the 'legitimacy' of the design result.

Majority of the participants preferred the matrix-style of presenting the broad classifications of knowledge. The matrix-style allows for different perspectives of the built environment across the different categories.

- **Collaboration**

It was identified that the KH can assist with collaboration research projects by:

- connecting interested parties
- helping with understanding context, and
- identifying common goals or knowledge gaps.

- **Future priorities**

It was identified that an infrastructure pipeline was required, at each level of government, to assist with assessing pathways for carbon reductions and focussing on policies / solutions that work.

### Limitations of the workshop

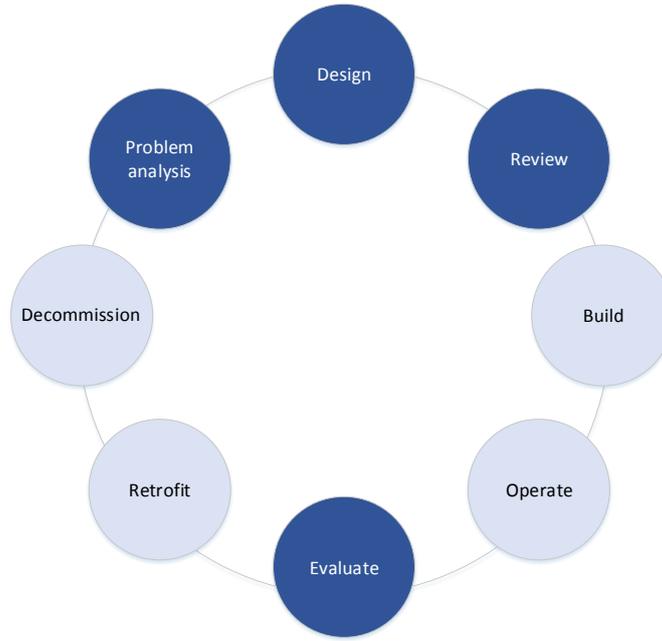
Government representation: The workshop benefited from input from people from OEH. However, there was no further representatives from other areas of government.

### Next steps

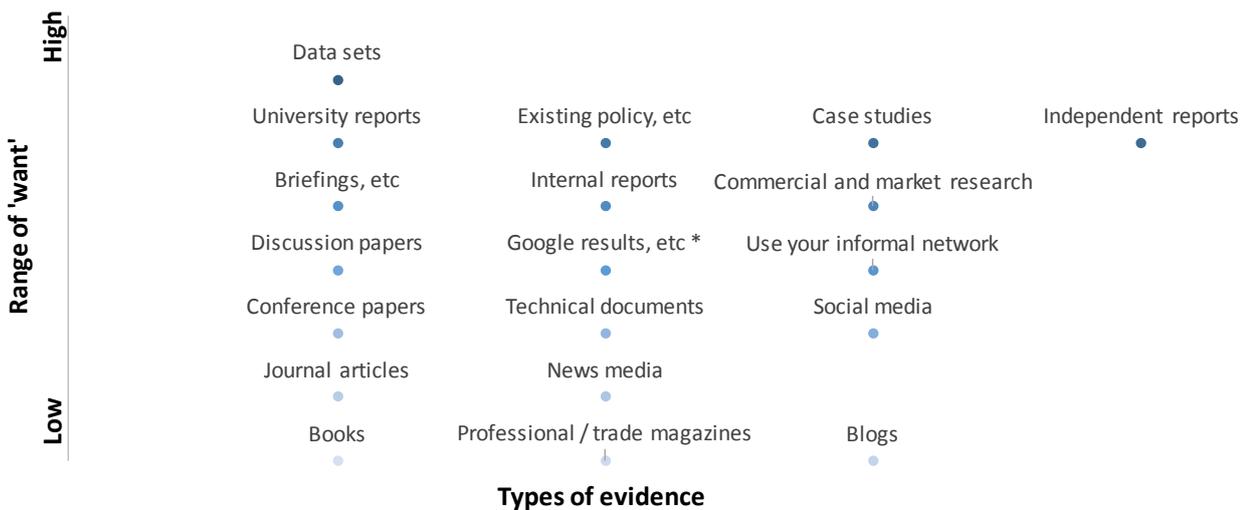
The information gathered from this workshop will be included into the Specifications for the Knowledge Hub project.

# 1. Evidence

The workshop participants identified themselves as predominantly being involved in problem analysis, design, review and subsequent evaluation **stages of the decision-making process**, either in policymaking or in industry outputs.



In regards to **types of evidence**, the follow graph shows responses on preferences for evidence types:



\* Google Scholar was preferred over Google.

In answer to the question of what **attributes** are important when searching for evidence:

- The Government representatives flagged the following top three:
  1. 'measurement'
  2. 'impacts on environment & community'
  3. 'quality'
- Academia flagged the 'resource' attributes as most important.
- Industry identified that it was very dependent on the issues and priorities of the decision being made.

In response to the question of **quality of evidence**, almost all aspects of a resource are important to judge the quality of a resource:

1. Relevance
2. Source
3. Easy to find
4. Purpose

It was noted that, high quality research input translates to 'legitimate' output.

The final question related to the **classification of information**. The preference was for the ASBEC matrix:

	<b>Building Systems</b>	<b>Precincts / Urban Scale</b>	<b>People &amp; engagement</b>
<b>Pathways</b> Sector pathways, policies, standards and regulation			
<b>Systems</b> Design, monitoring, verification, technologies, construction, materials, natural systems			
<b>People and engagement</b> Behaviours, engagement mechanisms, business cases			

In addition, the following points were made:

- Education and training need to be included (Academic group)
- Clear, quick drill down on pathways (eg net zero) (Government group)
- Leverage existing networks (Industry group)
- The market transformation pathways are also very relevant to the policy / self-interest aspect of decision making eg. Increasing energy productivity, making Australia energy independent, etc.
- Does not need to be CRC branded (Industry group)

## 2. Collaboration

Three examples of collaboration were used in the workshop:

1. CRC research project “Closing the Loop”
2. OEH funded research projects with universities
3. OEH collaboration on housing, unfunded

Important learnings from these projects were:

### a. Objectives & Timing

In the early stages, it is important to ensure that all parties are aligned to the project’s goals and that each party’s objectives are acknowledged. People need to be “genuine”, so all understand their personal motivations, “on board and accountable”. The self-interest of each person needs to be known, and needs to be met, by the project. There also needs to be a “contextual understanding”.

Also in the early stages, time needs to be given to allow all parties to come on board. As well, the project needs to be delivering in the stakeholder’s expected timeframes.

### b. Roles & Methods of engagement

Projects benefit from having a strong leader, and therefore not just relying on the committee’s directions. Leadership also means maintaining control of stakeholder engagement.

Each party’s role in the project needs to be clear. This point again refers to managing expectations. There also needs to be clarity on the structure of relationships between parties including agreement on “how to agree” and the “processes for decision-making”

Project deadlines are important foci points. Sub-working groups could be established to focus on special tasks and outputs.

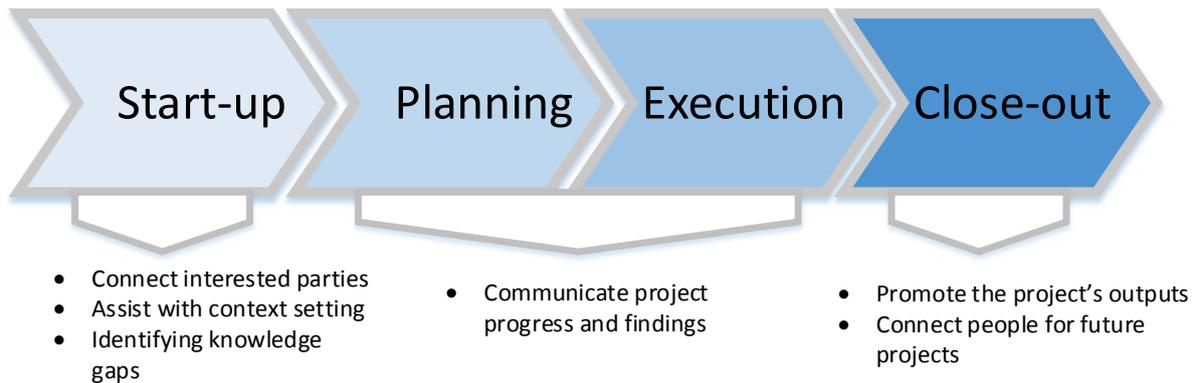
Face to face is often preferred method of communicating. If not possible, then using technology to ensure effective communication.

The concept of ‘trust’ was also explored. To engage in a collaborative project, the various parties need to have a trusted (at a particular level) relationship.

### Where can the KH help?

The KH can assist as a “facilitator” in building trusted relationships, a sort of “match maker”. It can do this by providing an environment of co-creation, in translating research, as a knowledge digester, and by bringing people together. It can help set visions and provide a framework for collaboration, and assist with selecting the issues to focus on.

At each stage of a project, the KH can provide support:



Predominantly, the KH can assist at project initiation/start-up stage:

- connecting interested parties
- helping with understanding context, and
- identifying common goals or knowledge gaps.

In regards to connecting with others, the KH can assist with communicating the project to the wider Built Environment community, and at the end of the project, by sharing the outputs of the project.

Ideally, when projects identify areas of future research opportunities, the KH can facilitate new projects by highlighting these gaps in knowledge and connecting people interested in addressing these gaps.

### 3. Priorities for evidence

Workshop participants offered the following top priorities for provision of evidence:

- **Infrastructure pipeline**
  - Weighing up different pathways
  - At different government levels, eg Local pipeline would include roads
  - Should be planning this pipeline now
  - What doesn't work -> Focus should be on what does work
- **What the KH needs to do**
  - KH to identify the purpose of a resource
  - KH tick of quality -> as a trusted agent
- **Hot topics**
  - Energy security
  - Energy productivity
  - Healthy communities