



FUTURE TASMANIA

Exploring Tasmania's Future

Wednesday 20 October 2010

Sustainable Buildings: Opportunities for Tasmania

Forum, Friday 5 – Saturday 6 November 2010, Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS, Sandy Bay

A unique public Forum will take place in Hobart early next month. Bringing together leading professionals locally, from the mainland and around the world, the Forum will look at how Tasmania can become a world leader in sustainable building design and construction. All members of the community interested in this field are invited to register and attend.

With poor building design now identified as a major cause of energy wastage and needless greenhouse gas emissions, the Forum will be looking at how new building design and retrofitting existing buildings can produce big savings in energy costs.

The Forum, *Sustainable Buildings: Opportunities for Tasmania*, follows close on the heels of a major scientific meeting in Hobart last week which highlighted the increasingly urgent need to cut carbon emissions from human activity, notably from coal-fired electricity generation.

Future Tasmania's spokesperson, Phil Harrington, today said "Buildings account for about 25 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia". Climate Works Australia calculates that Australia could cost-effectively reduce its emissions from buildings by at least 28 million tonnes by 2020, with very large savings in power costs.

"With the national and international buildings and skills market now moving towards zero net carbon emissions from buildings, Tasmania needs to move quickly to ensure it has the skills and knowledge to remain competitive", said Mr Harrington.

The *Future Tasmania* Sustainable Buildings Forum will feature a keynote address from renowned Irish architect – or 'eco-tect', as he would prefer to be known – Paul Leech, Principal of *GAlA Ecotecture* in Dublin and recent winner of the 2010 LAMA award for the Best Eco-Friendly Building in Ireland; along with key voices from the building industry, State and Federal Government, the research community and not-for-profit sector.

The program will focus on best practices and key issues on Friday, followed by the Saturday workshop to generate a practicable Action Plan to put Tasmania on a fast-track to sustainable building, which will be presented by *Future Tasmania* to the Tasmanian Government.

The foyer of the Stanley Burbury Theatre at UTAS will showcase existing and proposed sustainable buildings in Tasmania, both public and private examples, and student work including UTAS Schools of Architecture and Design, Engineering, and Geography and Environmental Studies.

Future Tasmania is planning an extensive student program to engage young people in this critical debate. We have been working with the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI), local secondary colleges and UTAS to ensure that Forum participants can benefit from the ideas, aspirations and work of young Tasmanians to make our buildings more sustainable.

Future Tasmania would like to recognise the support of our principal sponsor, the Tasmanian Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts. We also recognise the support of our Gold Sponsors: UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies; UTAS Asset Management Services; Sustainable Living Tasmania (for the Richard Jones Memorial Lecture Committee); and the Environment Protection Authority. Other sponsors of this event include Hobart City Council, the Australian Institute of Architects, the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment; Scenport Constructions and the Tasmania University Union.

Future Tasmania is a not-for-profit, non-party-political organisation that promotes education, research and transition toward sustainable futures. Our mission is to promote the development, communication and uptake of innovations and initiatives that create a healthy community, economy and environment within Tasmania.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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for and on behalf of *Future Tasmania*.

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Sustainable Buildings: Opportunities for Tasmania will be a part of a larger Sustainability ‘Week’ including a Sustainable Living Tasmania Sustainability Series event at UTAS, *Pro-active solutions for business, government and the community under climate change: closing the sustainability loop in Tasmania*. Registrations may be made at: www.futuretasmania.org or www.sustainablelivingtasmania.org.au/expo/sussem.htm

Other events associated with the Forum include a free public lecture by Paul Leech at UTAS hosted by the Richard Jones Memorial Lecture Committee (an SLT Sustainability Series event), the Sustainable Living Tasmania Expo at Princes Wharf on Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 November, and Sustainable Environs Walks organised by the Australian Institute of Architects (Tasmania) on 6 and 7 November.

FORUM PROGRAM FOLLOWS

PROGRAM: Day 1 – Friday 5 November

0830 Arrival, registration, coffee

SESSION 1: The Strategic and Policy Context

0900 Welcome and Introduction Phil Harrington, Facilitator

0910 Ministerial Welcome The Hon. Nick McKim, Minister for Climate Change, Sustainable Transport and Alternative Energy

0920 *KEYNOTE ADDRESS – International Best Practice in Sustainable Building.* Paul Leech, Principal, GAIA Ecotecture, Dublin

1000 *The National Policy Context – The Policy and Commercial Drivers for Sustainable Buildings in Australia.* Howard Bamsey, Prime Minister’s Special Envoy on Climate Change

1020 *A Vision for Sustainable Buildings in Tasmania.* Peter Poulet – State Architect

1040 Facilitated Panel Discussion

1100 Coffee

SESSION 2: Best Practices and Concepts – Sustainable Commercial Buildings

1130 *Carbon Positive Commercial Buildings in Australia – the “Pixel” Case Study, Carlton, VIC.* David Waldren, General Manager, GROCON

1200 *Best Practices in Tasmania – The Mt Nelson Sustainability Learning Centre project – seeking 6 star accreditation.* James Morrison, Director, JMYB architects

1220 *Sustainable Building in Tasmania – Understanding the Commercial Challenges – Cimitiere House.* Steven Banbury, Principal, Engineering Solutions Tasmania and John Pitt, Managing Director, pitt&sherry

1240 Facilitated Panel Discussion

1300 Lunch

SESSION 3: Best Practices and Concepts – Sustainable Residential Buildings

1345 *Sustainable Cities - Opportunities and Challenges.* Don Henry, Executive Director, Australian Conservation Foundation

1415 *The Best Practice Frontier – AusZEH style.* Michael Ambrose, Group Leader, Urban Systems Program, CSIRO

1435 *Sustainability in the rental housing market.* Michelle Gabriel and Pip Watson, UTAS

1455 Facilitated Panel Discussion

1515 Afternoon Tea

SESSION 4: The Social and Spatial Context of Sustainable Buildings

1545 *Sustainable Buildings in Context – people, place and function.* Helen Norrie, UTAS

1615 *Planning for Sustainability – challenges and opportunities in*

Tasmania. Brian Risby, Assistant State Planning Advisor, Tasmanian Planning Commission

1640 Facilitated Panel Discussion – Overview of the Day

1700 *Wrap-up and Close.* Phil Harrington, pitt&sherry

Day 2 – Saturday 6 November – Workshop: Making It Happen, Here and Now

Venue: UTAS Multi-Learning Centre, adjacent to the Stanley Burbury Theatre

0930 *Welcome and Introduction* Phil Harrington, Facilitator

0935 *Informal facilitated plenary discussion: Framing the Problem.* Scope, focus, priorities.

1000 **Workshop 1 – Brainstorming.** Problem-solving roundtables on issues such as new building regulation (housing and commercial), upgrading the existing building stock (housing and commercial), planning for sustainability and social inclusion

1100 *Sharing and discussion of ideas (plenary session)*

1130 **Workshop 2 – Refining the Focus.** Each roundtable to capture on paper key elements of a Sustainable Buildings Action Plan for Tasmania

1230 **Final Presentations.** Each roundtable to present core elements of their Action Plan.

1300 Close

Sustainability Week

The Sustainable Buildings Forum will be a part of a larger Sustainability ‘Week’:

Thursday 04 November Sustainable Living Tasmania Sustainability Series event at UTAS.

‘Pro-active solutions for business, government and the community under climate change: closing the sustainability loop in Tasmania.’ Speakers will cover topics including sustainable food systems, Water, Ecosystems, Renewable energy, and Benefits of transition to a low carbon economy.

Thursday 04 November evening FREE public lecture by Paul Leech at UTAS hosted by the Richard Jones Memorial Lecture Committee (an SLT Sustainability Series event)

Friday 05 November Future Tasmania Sustainable Building Forum at UTAS

Saturday 06 November all day SLT Expo

Saturday 06 November morning Future Tasmania Sustainable Building workshop at UTAS (express goal of creating an action plan of what needs to change in Tasmania to encourage more sustainable developments)

Saturday 06 November afternoon Sustainable ‘Environs’ Walk from Expo organised by Australian Institute of Architects – Tasmania (AIA) branch to 5 or so Hobart buildings with sustainable elements (Steve Watson)

Sunday 07 November all day SLT Expo and second AIA ‘Walk’