

16 April 2008

Committee Secretary  
Senate Economics Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

**Submission on Energy Efficiency in the built environment**

On September 17 the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) released the research findings of work it had commissioned in the built environment.

The report confirmed what we believed; that the built environment sector accounts for a large proportion of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions (23%) and, energy use in buildings is rapidly growing.

The report also highlights the importance for energy efficiency strategies within this sector. Key findings include:

- Electricity demand in residential and commercial buildings can be halved by 2030, and reduced by more than 70 per cent by 2050 through energy efficiency.
- Energy efficiency alone could deliver savings of 30-35 per cent across the whole building sector including the growth in the overall number of buildings out to 2050.
- Energy savings in the building sector (which accounts for 60 per cent of GDP and 23 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions) could reduce the costs of greenhouse gas abatement across the whole economy by \$30 per tonne, or 14 per cent, by 2050.
- By 2050, GDP could be improved by around \$38 billion per year if building sector energy efficiency is adopted, compared to previous economy-wide estimates of the 60 % deep cuts scenario.

Enclosed is a copy of the report '*Capitalising on the building sector's potential to lessen the costs of a broad based GHG emissions cut*' for your review.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our submission.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Pidcock  
President ASBEC