

1. GOVERNANCE

Meeting Apologies

As circulated prior to the meeting.

Finances

Tracking well against current year's budget. All members reminded to finalise payment of outstanding invoices.

Resources

Existing Staff

Administration

Megan Chaffer resigned in December to relocate to Canada. She has been replaced by Amy Brandoli, who is working part-time.

Marketing:

Daniel Hall continues work part-time. His position description has been redrafted to only include marketing tasks.

Communications

Samantha Thomas has commenced as a part-time Communications Co-ordinator.

Recruitment

Technical Services Manager

The position was readvertised in mid-January as Technical Services Manager and applications closed 14th February. Applications are being reviewed and interviews will be conducted during March with any promising applicants.

Director positions

Nominations from Precaster members for Director positions will be invited prior to the August meeting.

Office relocation

The lease of the Glenelg office commenced 1 December and the relocation took place in early December. The sub-tenancy space has been leased since 1 December.

An On Hold message has been written and recorded for the phone system.

2. MEMBERSHIP/MEMBER SERVICES

Membership categories

Industry Partner entitlements are being changed and will apply from 1 July 2016 onwards. Exclusivity via product type is being removed and exclusivity will only apply to sponsorship opportunities. 'Additional Services' are being reworked. The spread of services will focus on more sponsorship opportunities and less on services (eg videos, editorials, event tickets).

Membership applications & resignations

Applications – Nil.

Outback Sleepers Australia (Provisional Precaster) require a factory inspection by a Board member.

There are five Professional Associate Individual members and two Professional Associate Student members (same as last report).

Resignations – Nil.

Membership recruitment

No action since last meeting.

Members' meetings

May meeting – venue, agenda, presentations

The May meeting is being held at Parmelia Hilton Perth from 26th to 28th May. Dinner will be at Lamont's Bishops House. A site/factory inspection may be held for all members after the Thursday Board meeting.

August meeting

The meeting is being held in Melbourne on 25th to 27th August with a venue being sought.

November meeting

The 25th anniversary members' event is being held 17th – 19th November in Sydney, with a venue being sought. Initial discussions have been had with PCNZ to hold a joint meeting as part of this event.

Member communications

The following Member electronic newsletters have been sent since the last meeting:

- Marketing - Nov (new office).
- WHS - Nov (urgent safety alert).
- Meetings & Events - Dec (Nov meeting highlights/outcomes, Feb event info, 2016 meeting dates, new members, new office).
- Representation & Advocacy - Dec (Emissions Reductions rep, ACRA Guide review rep).
- Marketing & Comms - Dec (new office, new website, new member logos).
- Meetings & Events - Dec (Feb meeting).
- Marketing & Comms - Dec (merry Christmas, 2015 roundup).
- Marketing & Comms - Jan (happy NY, Feb meeting info, Emissions Reductions/ACRA Guide rep reminders).
- Marketing & Comms - Jan (DesignBUILD speaking opportunity, latest case studies, precast abroad).
- Tender Jan (townhouses).
- Meetings & Events - Jan, Feb (Feb meeting).
- WHS Feb (workers' comp mistakes, BJS/Aegis discounted workers' comp services, national/state/international news).
- Tender - Feb (child care centre).

Member services

With the Communications Co-ordinator commencing, there will be increased focus on producing member project case studies. Consideration is being given to the provision of printed case studies to members.

3. EXTERNAL PR/COMMS

Website Statistics

Type	May 2015	Aug 2015	Nov 2015	Feb 2016
Total site views	45,773	53,324	37,850	16,622
Individual users	10,291	13,012	9,753	3,969
Percentage of first time visitors	75.1%	76.3%	74.4%	71.41%
Average pages visited	3.45	3.24	3.03	3.45
Average viewing time (minutes)	03:29	03:29	02:57	03:12

Note –As we have a new site our google rating has slipped and statistics are lower. Previously, NP featured as the top result in a range of keyword searches related to precast concrete; this is no longer the case but will recover in time.

Most popular pages (Aug – Nov 2015)	Views	Most popular pages – (Dec – Feb 2016)	Views
Home page	2,433	Home page	2420
Precast products / Sandwich panel walls	935	Member only content	718
Precast products / Buildings	596	Member login	703
Resources / Fact sheet / Finishes – Classes, quality & colour of off-form grey precast (AS3610)	823	Face sheets	311
Precast products / Precast walls	621	Find a precaster	298
R-value Calculator	621	Member events / login	269
Find a precaster	617	Resources - publications	263
Resources / Publications	602	Member directory	257
Precast products / GRC walls	577	Precast products	239

What is precast?	575	Find a precaster – building elements	191
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Web Users:

Type	Dec 2014	Feb 2015	May 2015	Aug 2015	Nov 2015	Feb 2016
Web Users - all	273	399	556	709	827	960
Architects	60	95	135	174	197	112
Engineers	80	117	159	200	239	143
Builders	16	29	38	52	65	45
Developers	5	9	12	17	21	12
Students	67	81	115	137	163	89
Academics	6	13	18	23	29	16
Erectors	1	2	2	5	6	1
Industry Suppliers	15	20	31	42	48	39

Note - The Web User database has been cleansed (correcting incorrect email addresses etc). A list of approximately 130 names which do not have user categories assigned are still to be added.

New website

The [new website](#) went live in December. All members have been advised and asked to check details.

New content

Case studies

The following case studies have been written and uploaded to the website since the last report:

- Carnarvon Police & Justice Complex – Delta.
- Curtin University – Delta.
- Forster Road, Mt Waverley – Hollow Core.
- Brisbane State High School – Precast Concrete.
- Nan Tien Institute – SA Precast.
- North Yarra Sewer – Humes.
- Porsche Showroom – Hollow Core Concrete.
- Sydney Skytrain parapets – Hanson Precast.

Precaster members are asked to supply project information.

General Articles

The following articles have been written since the last report:

- Important safety reminder.
- Should it take a tragedy to put safety in the spotlight?
- Precast floors offer sustainable DFMA solution.
- National Precast unveils new website.
- Graphic concrete taking Australia by storm.
- Looking beyond our barriers.
- AS 3850 seminars.
- New tender service gives builders the best deal.
- Precast in Western Australia: the state of play.
- Call for states to follow Federal government lead in infrastructure investment.

All members are invited to submit potential article topics.

Member profiles

The following member profiles have been written since the last report:

- Delta Corporation.
- SA Precast.

All Precaster members are invited to make contact should they wish to have a member profile written.

Product Profiles

The following product profiles have been written since the last report:

- Noise walls.
- Culverts.

Videos

Flooring project videos:

Austral/Humes have not yet nominated a project to showcase Tranfloor/AustralDeck/Humeslab.

Hanson and SA Precast are the remaining members still to have videos produced. Hanson has been granted an extension to the May 2015 deadline to have a suitable project filmed.

General project videos:

Videos on Nan Tien Institute and Curtin University have been produced.

Exposure

Website

New content covered on our website since the last meeting includes:

- Call for Feds to encourage more prefabrication - Oct.
- National Precast is hiring! New SA position in national office - Jan.
- A call for everyone in construction to be vigilant about safety - Jan.
- December Construction Engineering Australia magazine is out - Jan.

Non-member precasters

The following have been sent to non-member precasters since the last meeting:

- Construction Engineering Australia magazine - Dec issue.
- Non-member Precaster enews - Feb.

Architect/engineer/builder Web Users

The following newsletters have been sent since the last meeting:

- Architects enews - Feb.
- Builders enews - Feb.
- Engineers enews - Feb.

Linkedin

Statistics - 307 members (283 members at last quarter). Various posts have been added/shared since the last report.

Facebook

Statistics - 516 likes (434 likes at last quarter). Various posts have been added/shared since the last report.

Industry publications

In addition to material being supplied predominantly to Sourceable, Concrete Engineering Australia magazine (CEA) and Roads & Civil Australia magazine (Prime Creative Media), discussions are being held with EPC to supply material for Highway Engineering Australia. CEA will also now also be distributed to all CIA members and affiliates.

The following content has been covered in industry publications since the last report (these will be shown at the meeting):

Sourceable

- Should it take a tragedy to put safety in the spotlight? – Jan.

Roads Civil Australia - Dec/Jan

- Precast integral to Perth Stadium transport infrastructure – Delta.
- Precast product profile: noise walls.
- Looking beyond our barriers – Humes.

Roads Civil Australia enews - various

- Various projects, National Precast banners.

Construction Engineering Australia - Dec

- Important safety reminder.
- Landmark construction: Carnarvon Police & Justice Complex – Delta.
- Flexible teaching with precast: Curtin University – Delta.
- Melbourne office tower shows off precast's versatility: Forster Rd Mt Waverley – Hollow Core.
- From little things big things grow: member profile - Delta Corporation.
- Precast: the publications (2 page ad).
- Precast floors offer sustainable DFMA solution.
- Graphic concrete taking Australia by storm.
- National Precast Unveils new website.

Construction Engineering International - Jan

Launceston – a flood levy with a difference – Duggans.

Mainstream media

AFR - 29 Jan

NP quoted in: National Construction Code change opens way for timber buildings up to 8 storeys.

DesignBUILD

NP has a complimentary 3x6m space at the exhibition, being held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre on 4-6th May 2016. The agreement includes speakers as part of the speaker programme and a complimentary page in the Showguide. Seminars presentations will be made by Peter Healy from Hollow Core and by Reid on graphic concrete.

4. EDUCATION

Joint NP/CIA AS 3850 seminars

Plans are underway to hold seminars with CIA on the revised AS 3850 in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart in early August. Jeff Stratford and Kevin Crompton will be presenting at the seminars.

Leaders Rule Change (LRC) leadership training

LRC Communications has developed a leadership training program which skills potential managers to work collaboratively with potential managers from other businesses, to lead projects for their businesses which have been industry agreed and which will deliver real improvements to the business. Kathy Barakis from LRC Communications will present on the programme at the members' meeting, and invite ideas for potential projects.

5. PUBLICATIONS

Publication sales

The December SAI campaign focused on the Precast Concrete Handbook.

Precast design educational material

Olivia Mirza from UWS has been unwell and her review of our current publications (including the new fib *Planning and design handbook on precast building structures*) has been delayed. After she has recovered Olivia will recommend a way ahead in relation to developing improved precast design educational material.

Precast Concrete Handbook edition 3

Review of edition 2 of the Precast Concrete Handbook is pending appointment of a Technical Services Manager, who will co-ordinate this working group. John Woodside has offered to be involved in the review. SAI Global is currently carrying approx. 1750 stock of edition 2.

Norwegian design manuals

Update to be provided by Peter Healy on the translation of the manuals into English at the meeting.

fib *Planning and design handbook on precast building structures*

200 co-branded copies have been ordered, to be funded from the Flooring Account (cost approx. \$10,000). Two single page ads are being prepared for inclusion in the book. Flooring members to distribute to engineer contacts.

6. REPRESENTATION/ADVOCACY

TWU application for lorry owner drivers (NSW)

A TWU application attempting to impose additional onerous conditions and higher rates on lorry owner drivers who transport precast (that currently apply to those transporting general freight) was heard by the IR Commission in mid-November 2015. Peter Webb (Hanson) attended the hearing and reports that all parties agreed to retain the status quo until 2017 and that the MBA will contact all NSW NP members in early 2016 to commence work on an industry approach to transporting precast elements.

Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing & Structural Steels (ACRS)

National Precast representative Bob Connell ITW

Bob was unable to attend the February meeting however will attend the May meeting. At the same time as ACRS are continuing to promote the scheme, the requirement for compliance and independent review is gaining momentum, with the SA Government announcing that it will require ACRS certification for steel on its projects. Others are likely to follow.

Steel Processor Working Group

Participants: Sarah Bachmann (NP), John Bergin (Humes), Graham Underwood (Rocla), Peter Webb (Hanson), Faiz Al-Sammak (Austral), Graeme Underwood (OneSteel), Andrew Ruffles (CPAA).

Pending provision of information on welding, following which the position papers will be finalised.

Australian Engineered Fasteners and Anchors Council (AEFAC)

National Precast representative Ian Ferrier Reid Construction Systems

The AEFAC Standard has been released as an Australian Technical Standard, titled *Technical Specification, Design of post-installed and cast-in fastenings for use in concrete*. Thanks to Ian for his input throughout the development process.

Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) Cement & Concrete Products Standard Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

National Precast representatives Alan Morrison Ultrafloor
Steve Bratan Lanxess
Brett Foster Advanced Precast

As part of round 1, all TAG members have been asked to review proposed scope of the new GECA standard on Cement and Concrete Products. The scope proposed to include three product categories – cement (Portland cement and Portland cement blends), concrete (including ready mixed and batched) and concrete products (including masonry, precast, pipes, roof tiles and AAC products). Feedback was sought on whether products below a minimum cement content should be excluded, sourcing of materials, manufacturing, packaging materials, Standards' compliance, environmental management systems and harmful substances. Brett has submitted a response and can elaborate at the Members' Meeting if required.

Emissions Reduction Fund Technical Working Group for Cement & Concrete

National Precast representative Mathew de Groen Austral Precast

Mathew will be representing National Precast on this working group.

ACRA's Guide to Concrete Repair and Protection (precast section) Working Group

National Precast representative Trent Alexander Austral Precast

Trent will be representing National Precast on this working group.

WHS Authorities

Safe Work Australia: National Code of Practice for Precast, Tilt-up and Concrete Elements in Building Construction

Emily Hall from SWA advised in early February that review of the 2008 Code is on SWA's work list and that they are still working through the scope of changes required. A revised draft is unlikely to be released before the middle of 2016 but should be issued by the end of the year. NP has offered to assist. SWA members will decide at a later date on whether the revised document will be a code or a guide.

Roads Authorities

TMR

Owen Arndt has been appointed to assist Julie Mitchell with the review of MRTS 25 Pipes initially, and then with 70 Concrete, 71 Reinforcing Steel and 72 Manufacture of Precast Concrete Elements. Given industry's concern about specification requirements being over and above AS requirements, internal TMR staff have been asked to provide evidence of need in each case for each specification. To assist with this process, NP has been asked to identify priorities for the order of review and then identify the major issues within each specification.

Member Action – Identify priorities for review by TMR.

New precast category: Austroads National Prequalification System

Craig Smith (TMR and project manager for the new precast category in the Austroads National Prequalification System) had earlier advised that whilst the new precast category had been approved by the Austroads Board and was due to be implemented on 1 January 2016, there has been a delay due to the absence of industry consultation and to allow time for jurisdictions to update their systems. Craig referred us to Richard Edwards (DPTI SA and chair of the Austroads Prequalification & Contract Liaison Group) who advises the System has been accepted by all states except WA and is being redrafted into a simpler format. Richard will provide us with a copy for review prior to broader circulation.

NCC (BCA) Proposal for Change (PFC) – Mass Enhanced R-value & R-value Calculators

The development of brick and block calculators is now complete and being implemented on TBA and CMAA's websites. Once operational, the royalty can apply and PFC prepared.

Australian Standards

AS 3600 Concrete Structures

BD-02 Committee

National Precast representative

Nagesh Kanapathy

Hanson Precast

Standards Australia is awaiting formal approval by ABCB of the revision project of AS 3600-2009. This is due to the memorandum of understanding between Standards Australia and ABCB. This revision project is now anticipated to commence in May 2016 unless notified otherwise.

AS3610 Formwork

BD-043 Committee

BD-043 Main Committee and Working Group 2

National Precast representative

Alan Morrison

Ultrafloor

BD-043 Working Group 1

National Precast representative

Peter Webb

Hanson Precast

Peter Webb attended his first Working Group 1 meeting in early December.

A new BD-043 Project Manager has been appointed (Jay Lim – the same project manager as BD-032). A final draft, signed off by all three working groups, needs to be ready for distribution for public comment in early June. Six action items for Working Group 1 were circulated by Standards following the Working Group 1 meeting, to be actioned by 7th March. The only item for member consideration is alternatives to the colour evaluation chart. Peter Webb has met with Tony Watling, who has done some work on using a portable hand held device to assess tonal variations for all concrete colours. Peter will provide an update on this at the Members' Meeting.

A first draft of Section 3 (renamed Architectural Requirements) has been prepared and is being reviewed by Peter. Working Groups 2 and 3 now need to provide earlier comment on the draft being prepared by Working Group 1.

Working Group 2 update – Kevin Huff reports that a brief meeting between the BD-032 & BD-043 committee representatives saw BD-043 understanding the concerns expressed by various interested parties from BD-032, particularly in regard to design loads.

Standards Australia has subsequently decided to place AS 3610.2 and AS 3610.3 on hold until AS 3610.1 has been approved for Public Comments. This is expected to take at least 4 months (Jun-2016).

Member Action – Consider/discuss alternatives to the colour evaluation chart. Peter to report on the revised draft of Section 3 at the meeting.

AS 2327 Composite Structures

BD-032 Committee

National Precast representative

Kevin Huff

Ultrafloor

BD-032 has essentially finished the bulk of its work, and is awaiting Standards to edit the document. It will then go out for public comment.

A brief meeting between the BD-032 & BD-043 committee representatives saw BD-043 understanding the concerns expressed by various interested parties from BD-032.

AS 1379 Specification and Supply of Concrete

BD-049 Committee

National Precast representative

Mark Jedy

Rocla

No report since the last meeting.

AS 3850 Tilt-up Concrete Construction
National Precast representatives

BD-066 Committee
Kevin Crompton
Jeff Stratford

Ultrafloor
ITW

The standard was published in early September and review of the National Code is now needed to avoid inconsistencies between the 2008 version of the Code and the revised Standard.

AS/NZS 4671 & AS/NZS 4672 Steel Reinforcement & Prestressing

BD-084 Committee

BD-084 Main Committee

National Precast representative

Gary Connah

Ancon

A proposal to undertake a full update on AS 4671 is pending consideration by Standards Australia.

BD-084 Sub-Committee 1 Steel Reinforcement

National Precast representative

Andrew Barraclough

ITW

As reported above. Pending decision by Standards.

BD-084 Sub-Committee 2

National Precast representative

Prestressing

None

AS 1546.3 Domestic Wastewater Treatment

WS-040

National Precast representative

Tony Kruf

Central Coast Septics

The revised document has just completed public comment.

Note - the following committees have National Precast representation but are not currently active:

CE-026 Committee

AS 1597 Precast Reinforced Concrete Box Culverts

FP-020 Committee

AS 3859 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas

Sub-committee 3, BD-084 Committee

AS 2425 Bar Chairs in Reinforced Concrete (Leonard Samuel)

Solid Construction Committee (Kevin Crompton).