

1. GOVERNANCE

Finances

The 31st July Financial Report has been prepared and circulated to the Board, along with a revised draft 2015-16 budget. Precaster members are reminded to complete and return fee type declarations so that invoices for the current year's fee can be adjusted.

Member action – Precaster members return fee type/turnover declaration.

Resources

The Board is considering resource needs to undertake technical work and new initiatives. Daniel Hall has temporarily transitioned to part time due to illness.

Director positions

The close date for Board nominations from Precaster members has now passed. Andrew Nearhos from Austral and Bill Wright from MJB have both submitted nominations.

Office relocation

The Board is considering options for relocating the office, due to the impending sale of the current office and having outgrown the space it offers.

2. MEMBERSHIP/MEMBER SERVICES

Membership applications & resignations

Applications – Advanced Precast (Provisional Precaster), Reid Construction Systems (Industry Partner), Ecoratio (Industry Supplier), PSA (Industry Supplier). We now have four Professional Associate Individual members (including Peter Webb).

Resignations – Reckli Formliners, Quatro Design, Strusoft (Industry Supplier)

Member recruitment

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

- Non-member Precaster enews July.

Members' meetings

November Members' meetings – venue, agenda, presentations

The November meeting is being held at Melbourne Marriott on 19-21 November. At this stage our only speakers include Kylie Bartlett (social media; referred by John Joveski and Steve Bratan) and Tim Bower (Parchem). There are no Precasters' Forum topics at this stage, nor project presentations.

Dinner will be at the Old Melbourne Gaol. The Saturday event is a train ride on Puffing Billy in the Dandenong Ranges. The events will be uploaded into the Events area of the website after the August meeting.

Member Action – Nominate ideas for meeting speakers, project presentations and Precasters' Forum topics for November meeting.

February Members' meetings – venue, agenda, presentations

The February meeting is being held at Hobart on 25-27th Feb with a venue still being sought.

Member communications

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

- Representation & Advocacy June (ACRS working group)
- Meetings & Events June (Meeting highlights, Cathy's retirement, August meeting info, call for next meeting presentations, new members, call for director nominations).
- Marketing & Communications June (PR edition)
- Tender Request June (Proposed new residence to 9 Caladenia Close, Elanora Heights, NSW)
- Meetings & Events June (Meeting reminder, call for meeting presentations, call for Director nominations, invoice reminder, ACIF events).
- General June (Thank you to Peter Webb, CIA honours people in precast).
- Tender Request June (Watt Preaput Meahchey buddhist temple, Penfield, SA).
- Meetings & Events June (Meeting reminder, call for meeting presentations, call for Director nominations, invoice reminder, Sustainability awards nominations).
- Meetings & Events July (Meeting reminder, call for meeting presentations, call for Director nominations, invoice reminder).
- Tender Request July (Noise walls, Tuggerah, NSW).
- Tender Request July (SA Motorsport Park barriers, Taillem Bend, SA).
- Meetings & Events August (Precast workshop, meeting reminder, call for Director nominations).
- Tender Request August (Pacific Highway Upgrade, Ourimbah, NSW).
- Meetings & Events August (Urgent social registrations reminder).
- Legal & Commercial August (Moray & Agnew briefings, government jobs story, ACIF forecasts, property industry story, crane oversail, Aus construction firms failing, coercion fine).
- Meetings & Events August (Precast workshop, meeting reminder, call for director nominations, Sydney Build 2016, prefabAUS conference).
- General August (new member service).

Member services

NP has partnered with Make it Cheaper to offer members savings in power usage, with 20% of Make it Cheaper's commission (which is paid by the retailers) to be paid to NP. A gift voucher is being offered by Make it Cheaper for the first member to save money on a power bill.

Member Action – All members are urged to consider the offer.

3. EXTERNAL PR/COMMS

Content that has been produced: Case Studies

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

- Gladstone Tunnel – Precast Concrete Products
- Brisbane Ferry Terminal – Precast Concrete Products
- Halo on Mount – Austral
- GMK Industrial Development – Humes
- Brisbane State High School – Precast Concrete Products
- Gateway WA – Delta.

Case studies are being uploaded onto the new website.

Other members are asked to supply project information so that case studies can be written and used for promotional purposes.

Content that has been produced: Videos

Flooring project videos:

Brisbane State School has been finalised since the last report, and Curtin University has been filmed for Delta Corp. Austral/Humes have not yet nominated a project to showcase Tranfloor/AustralDeck/Humeslab; both have been followed up.

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

General project videos:

Nan Tien is still to be completed, pending interviews with SA Precast. The Porsche dealership is also in production.

Exposure: on NP Website

Statistics:

Type	Feb 2015	May 2015	August 2015	
Total site views	26,228	45,773	53,324	
Individual users	6,702	10,291	13,012	
Percentage of first time visitors	77.74%	75%	76.3%	
Average pages visited	3.18	3.45	3.24	
Average viewing time (minutes)	02:58	03:29	03:29	
Most popular pages (Feb - May 2015)		Views	Most popular pages – (May - August 2015)	Views
Home page		3,611	Home page	5,378
Precast products / Sandwich panel wall		1,187	Resources / Fact sheet / Finishes – Classes, quality & colour of off-form grey precast (AS3610)	1,134
Precast products / Buildings		906	Precast products / Sandwich panel walls	1,114
Resources / Finishes (AS 3610)		827	Precast products / Buildings	1,001
Resources / Publications		815	Resources / Publications	831
Resources / Fact sheets		726	Find a precaster	798
Find a precaster		681	R-value Calculator	753
R-value Calculator		675	Resources / Fact sheets	747
Precast products		641	What is precast?	703
What is precast?		633	Precast products / Precast walls	665

New content:

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

- Why use a National Precast member? (May)
- Call for infrastructure investment to boost economy (June) – Sourceable
- National Precast announces first Industry Partner (July) – Reid Construction Systems
- Outer beauty, inner strength – graphic concrete (July) – Reid Construction Systems
- The oft-overlooked virtues of precast concrete (July) – Sourceable
- Precast workshop: a must for anyone involved in precast (Aug) – Concrete Institute of Australia
- AAMI Park one of world's 5 'coolest' stadiums (Aug) – Hollow Core Concrete

New website:

As previously reported, an agreement was signed mid-May with Highland Creative to produce a new website. The base framework is now largely completed and the site is being developed (eg additional pages built) and populated with information by Dan and Megan.

Exposure: to architect/engineer/builder Web Users

Current Web User numbers:

Type	Dec 2014	Feb 2015	May 2015	Aug 2015
Web Users - all	273	399	556	709
Architects	60	95	135	174
Engineers	80	117	159	200
Builders	16	29	38	52
Developers	5	9	12	17
Students	67	81	115	137
Academics	6	13	18	23
Erectors	1	2	2	5
Industry Suppliers	15	20	31	42

Web Users (architects/engineers/builders) enews:

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

- Architects enews August.
- Design & Standard Update Workshop (Builders/Engineers) August.
- Builders enews August.
- Engineers enews August.

Exposure: in social media

NP LinkedIn page:

Statistics - 272 members (213 members at last quarter).

Content - Various posts have been added/shared since the last report.

NP Facebook page:

Statistics - 393 likes (310 likes at last quarter).

Content - Various posts have been added/shared since the last report.

Exposure: in external industry publications

Agreements: EPC – Concrete Engineering Australia magazine

As well as agreements now with Sourceable (bimonthly online publication) and Prime Creative Media (to exclusively supply civil editorial for Roads & Civil Works Australia magazine), an agreement has been signed with EPC (to supply general editorial for Concrete Engineering Australia magazine). NP content for the first issue will be shown at the meeting. All members will be receiving copies of both magazines.

We have also been contacted by Mahlab Media (publishers for Engineers Australia) and will be supplying them with editorial material also.

Coverage

The following content has been covered in external industry publications since the last report:

Sourceable:

- What will bolster Australia's economy (June)
- The oft-overlooked virtues of precast concrete (July)

Roads Civil Australia (Sep/Oct):

- Legacy Way case study (Humes)
- Gateway WA case study (Delta)
- Seventh Ave Bridge case study (Delta)
- The right infrastructure investment will pay off

Roads Civil Australia enews (July, August):

- National Precast tenders advertisement

Construction Engineering Australia (August/Sept)

- Construction Engineering Australia partners with National Precast
- Standard now reflects increased use of precast (including ad for precast workshop)
- A new era in precast
- Member company profile (Hollow Core)
- National Precast announces first Industry Partner (Reid)
- Halo on Mount case study (Austral)
- Popularity of precast concrete housing (MJB and Hollow Core).

These will be available for viewing at the meeting.

Exposure: at DesignBUILD Exhibition (Sydney 28-30 April)

The 2016 exhibition is being held 4-6th May at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. Increased visitor numbers are expected with the city location.

Exposure: at external conferences

We have arranged for Peter Healy to present on total precast at the prefabAUS conference in Melbourne in September. We were invited to have members present at SydneyBuild conference in Sydney in March next year, however have been unable to obtain member interest and commitment.

4. EDUCATION

Precast seminars

A joint NP/CIA precast workshop is being held Thursday 3rd September after Concrete 2015 and the following speakers will be presenting: David Fernandez-Ornandez & Jason Krohn (fib), Jeff Stratford (AS3850), Geoff Fletcher (NCC/AS3850), Kevin Crompton (Safe Design), Michael Waeger (ANZ Memorial Walk) and John Woodside (Design for Temporary Erection). 25-30 registrations are expected and NP is receiving 20% of income (est \$2,000). NP has asked for the presentations to be recorded so they can be used to produce a webinar.

5. PUBLICATIONS

Publication sales

Sales figures have been included in the monthly financial reports (latest attached). A programme has been set with SAI Global regarding publication promotions in 2015/16. NP was included as the Featured Publisher in SAI Global's July Engineering Newsletter.

Design Guide for Precast

Despite significant attempts to expedite its production, Barry Crisp has withdrawn production of the Design Guide from National Precast.

6. REPRESENTATION/ADVOCACY

ACRS Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing & Structural Steels

National Precast representative Bob Connell ITW

Bob reports that ACRS is developing its communications strategy to promote the benefits of ACRS certification to all stakeholders, targeting end users, building owners and specifiers. ACRS is running a series of seminars in October in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth and is seeking assistance to promote this.

Bob is attending an ACRS board meeting just prior to the August Members' Meeting and will provide a full update at the meeting.

Action – Bob to continue to report on ACRS developments.

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).

A meeting of the group was held on 1st July, with discussions centering around the role of ACRS, activities of specifiers such as QDTMR and the definition of 'steel processing' in AS4671. No precasters have been able to locate specific advice from TMR requiring precasters who simply cut/bend steel, to themselves be ACRS certified (which is allegedly required by TMR before 31st Dec 2015). Graeme McGregor has prepared a draft technical paper detailing steel processing, which is being considered by the group. A further meeting of the group is being held immediately after the Board meeting and an update will be provided at the Members' Meeting.

AEFAC Australian Engineered Fasteners and Anchors Council

National Precast representative Ian Ferrier Reid Construction Systems

NP prepared a response to the proposed publishing of the standard. AEFAC withdrew its intention to mandate testing and the standard then passed the ABCB's finalisation stage. Its reference in the NCC however is pending the outcome of the BCC ballot in October. AEFAC has been advised by CEN it must develop the standard through Standards Australia and has entered negotiations with SAI Global to publish the document as an Australian Technical Specification (ATS). An ATS is a normative document that may be referenced in the NCC, providing guidance on rapidly evolving technology. It is expected an Australian Standard will be developed based on the ATS within a few years.

Action – Ian to continue to report on AEFAC developments.

WHS Authorities

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

No change to the earlier report that SWA's intention is still to wait until the revised AS3850 is released before revision of the Code is considered.

Roads Authorities

TMR

Technical Note: MRTS25 Steel Reinforced Precast Concrete Pipes – TMR has issued a technical note to be used in conjunction with MRTS25 Steel Reinforced Precast Concrete Pipes, to explain the difference between the specification and AS4058 Precast concrete pipes. CPAA is reviewing the document and it is likely that NP will support the CPAA submission.

MRTS70 Concrete – NP received a response from TMR to our review of draft 2 of MRTS70, inviting further dialogue. Discussions have since been held with Stephen Rae and he has advised that TMR will again be internally reviewing the document over the coming month. It is likely that NP will then review the revised document, formulate comments and meet with TMR.

Austroads Proposed National Prequalification System for Precast Concrete Products

Since NP submitted a response, discussions have been held with Mike Swainston (TMR and supporting the project). A report has been finalised and is being reviewed by the Austroads Board. NSW, Qld, SA, Vic and ACT will be participating in the scheme however WA and NT will not. It is unknown at this stage whether Tasmania will participate. Due to a change in roles within TMR, Craig Smith (TMR) will be providing support to the project in Mike's place and Craig reports to John Spathonis (TMR and project manager).

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

No development since our last meeting.

Action - Discuss progress of brick and block calculators with TBA and CMAA. Finalise PFC and Industry Standard for submission to the ABCB.

Standards Australia – various Standards

BD-02 Committee

National Precast representative

AS3600 Concrete Structures

Nagesh Kanapathy

Hanson Precast

Nagesh advises that no committee meetings have been held for the next revision of AS3600.

Action - Nagesh to monitor committee communication.

BD-032 Committee

National Precast representative

AS2327 Composite Structures

Kevin Huff

Ultrafloor

Kevin advises that there a number of minor changes to be made to the standard and a committee meeting is being held in late August.

Action – All NP flooring manufacturers are encouraged to review the Standard in the public comment period.

BD-043 Committee

National Precast representative

AS3610 Formwork

Alan Morrison

Ultrafloor

Alan has reported that the first committee meeting was held in June, at which it was decided to split the standard into three parts. Part one will be a revision of AS3610.1 2010, part two will cover design and construction and part three will cover falsework. Three working groups have been set up to review each part of the revised standard and each met in late July. Group one is seeking assistance with the review of the content on surface finishes and NP is assisting to provide this information. Part two has been drafted and is under review by Group two. Alan Morrison is representing NP on Group two.

Action – NP assist Group one with review of surface finishes content.

BD-049 Committee

National Precast representative

AS1379 Specification and Supply of Concrete

Mark Jedy

Rocla

Mark has reported that one committee meeting was held, which resulted in revised text in Amendment No.2 to AS 1379-2007 regarding Clause 2.3 and Clause 2.8, which was published on 30.03.2015.

Action – Mark to continue representing NP on this Standard.

BD-066 Committee
National Precast representatives

AS3850 Tilt-up Concrete Construction
Kevin Crompton
Jeff Stratford
Ultrafloor
ITW

Jeff and Kevin advise that the standard is due to be published any time now. Sincere thanks to Jeff and Kevin for the many hours of work contributing to the revision of this standard on behalf of the industry.

Action – All NP members to adopt the revised AS3850.

BD-084

AS/NZS4671 & AS/NZS4672 Steel Reinforcement & Prestressing

BD-084 Main Committee

National Precast representative

Gary Connah

Ancon

Gary has advised that BD84 continues to remain dormant despite the Bar Chair Standard being published and discussions about updating the Steel Reinforcement Standard.

Action – Gary to monitor activities.

BD-084 Sub-Committee 1 Steel Reinforcement

National Precast representative

Andrew Barraclough

ITW

Andrew has advised that the BD-084-01 committee's proposal is still being prepared by Scott Munter (SRIA), seeking approval from Standards Australia. Mark Turner, the potential chairperson of this committee, has advised that the committee will most likely gain approval from Standards Australia to start the revision next year.

Action – Andrew to monitor committee communication.

BD-084 Sub-Committee 2

Prestressing

National Precast representative

None

BD-084 Sub-Committee 3, AS2425

Bar Chair for Steel Reinforcement

National Precast representative

Leonard Samuel

Actech

Gary Connah has advised that the Bar Chair Standard AS2425 was published on 29th June 2015 and so far there has been no feedback.

Action – NP members to adopt AS2425.

WS-040

AS 1546.3 Domestic Wastewater Treatment

National Precast representative

Tony Kruf

Central Coast Septics

Tony has advised that a teleconference was held in late July to tidy up the document ready to go to public comment, which should happen in around three months' time. This document is a major revision of the previous document, as testing and design has been significantly upgraded. This should improve the industry, as well as giving government and others better confidence in the industry.

Action – Tony to continue representing NP on this Standard.

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

CE026 Committee

AS1597 Precast Reinforced Concrete Box Culverts

FP020 Committee

AS3859 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas

Solid Construction Committee (Kevin Crompton).

Sarah Bachmann, CEO, 19th August 2015