



Representation & Advocacy e-news

June 2014

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Welcome to National Precast's latest e-newsletter. Our **Representation & Advocacy e-news** has been designed to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments in the precast industry.

We welcome content from Members.

National Precast is going to Sydney!

Members' Dinner/Meeting/AGM
20th -21st November



On-site domestic wastewater treatment units Standard - NP rep needed!

National Precast is inviting nominees to represent us on the AS committee which is reviewing AS/NZS 1546.3 On-site domestic wastewater treatment units – Aerated wastewater treatment units. If you would like to nominate someone to represent us on this committee, please have them complete and return an Expression of Interest before Friday 4th July.

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

Speaker needed for prefabAUS inaugural conference

Our new Member prefabAUS is holding its Inaugural National Conference in Melbourne from 11-13 August. Their CEO Sarah Backhouse has agreed for NP to provide a speaker in one of the workshops **Materials and Systems** on Tuesday 12th August. The slot would be for 10-12 minutes, covering prefab from a precast perspective (you could use one of your projects). There would be 3 or 4 other speakers covering different products and the presentations will be followed by a facilitated discussion on what each of these materials means for future off-site innovation.

If you would like to present please contact Sarah (Bachmann) ASAP!

[Read more](#)



Meet road agency reps at Roads Australia Industry Policy Meetings & Lunches

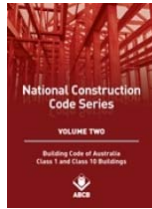


Meet road agency representatives and outline which technical specifications you think can be standardised and/or harmonised across Australia to achieve cost savings, at these unique industry policy sessions and lunches (being held in Brisbane 3rd July, Melbourne 30th July, Perth 10th July and Adelaide – date TBA). The lunches will also look at opportunities in procurement. Sarah will attend the Adelaide or Melbourne event but a good precast turnout at all events would certainly help bolster the industry's standing. More information [here](#). National Precast Members can attend at a 20% discounted rate - contact Rachael Rooney, Roads Australia's Events Director at rachael@roads.org.au, who will set you up with a login to get the discount.

[Read more](#)

Precast and AS3850 covered in Engineers Australia Civil

Did you see the article in the May issue of Engineers Australia civil edition

[Read more](#)

From the 2015 edition onwards, the National Construction Code (including the Building Code of Australia) will be available for free online. This decision will make the Code more accessible and follows heavy lobbying by the Australian Construction Industry Forum, National Precast and others. In fact, National Precast raised this issue as well as the possibility of increasing the annual review cycle to 3 years, with Australian Building Codes Board Chairman John Thwaites at an industry lunch in Melbourne last year. This change to the review cycle will also go ahead, with annual reviews becoming 3 yearly from the 2016 edition.

[Read more](#)

Read about changes to the 2014 edition of the NCC and read the 2015 public comment draft. Public comment on the 2015 draft closes on 1 August 2014.

[2014 link](#)
[2015 link](#)

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The most recent meeting of the committee reviewing AS 3850 was held this week in Melbourne. The meeting was well attended. At the meeting, the committee finished reviewing public comments and finalised discussions on statistical methods to be adopted for testing. The Standard is now at a point where final style and formatting changes will be undertaken by SA. The document will then be issued to committee members for checking and the final document will be voted upon by committee members. Thanks to NP reps Jeff Stratford and Kevin Crompton for all their hard work.

Note - As we know once AS 3850 is finalised, the National Code is to be reviewed. Under new advice from the Minister for Employment, we understand that national codes are likely to be abolished and republished as guides (subject to ratification by the Minister). Guides would still be the highest available reference document, but would not have legal status as do codes of practice. This is likely to mean that whilst guides will have more weight than standards, their content will be able to be tested in court.



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