

# ROADS REVIEW

THIS MONTH, WE ASKED THE INDUSTRY'S DECISION-MAKERS, 'WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE TO BETTER CATER FOR THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS?'



**STEVE MORRIS, HEAD OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY – CLOSE THE LOOP**

Government mandating of targets for the use of sustainable construction materials is the fastest way to increase uptake. Common barriers to market entry for sustainable construction materials erode quickly when there is a risk of not winning new business. It would help if standards and specifications were performance based as opposed to prescriptive. If a new material performs the same or better than a traditional material, it should not be blocked by prescriptive specifications because that's the way we've always done it. Change is happening now, thank you to all those in government and industry working hard to promote the use of sustainable construction materials. Keep up the good work.

*Image: Close the Loop.*



**SARAH BACHMANN, CEO – NATIONAL PRECAST**

Challenging traditional construction methods to increasingly utilise off-site manufactured products in construction offers the biggest opportunity for productivity improvement in recent times. It's a challenge that government must lead as it is vital to ensuring the development of sustainable construction inputs and products. Sites become safer using offsite-manufactured products as most work is moved into purpose-built factories with a controlled environment. Global sustainability can improve by incorporating local materials into products, transport emissions from imports go down, durability of structures improves from higher quality products that are produced in a proven manufacturing quality control environment, and local manufacturing supports local economies. Choosing locally sourced offsite manufactured products like precast concrete manufactured by National Precast's Master Precasters fosters technological advancements in the industry for a more sustainable construction industry.

*Image: National Precast.*



**PETER ALI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – MUNICIPAL WORKS AUSTRALIA**

Several opportunities exist in the municipal works industry to foster the use of sustainable products. They include an increased commitment to research to enable the development of cost-effective and operationally feasible new materials and service approaches. Once developed, industry associations have a vital role in facilitating collaboration between researchers, manufacturers, and work professionals to share this knowledge and accelerate using these materials in operational environments. Local government has an equally important role in incorporating sustainable materials and practices into capital works projects, creating a demand to stimulate the recycled materials market.

*Image: Municipal Works Australia.*