



the voice of the industry

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MEDIA RELEASE

10 March 2017

Improving Residential Construction Waste Management

“Reducing waste to landfill is a priority activity for all tiers of government and industry in Australia”, said Craig Jennion, HIA Hunter Executive Director.

“As is often reported in the local media, waste can be a significant visual health and safety issue in our community and the impact on the environment is increasingly topical”.

“The unfortunate recent media image of illegally dumped waste from the construction sector is a concern, and whilst to date this has not been undertaken by a HIA member, HIA remains concerned that the poor practices of rogue operators tarnish the entire sector”.

For the residential construction industry the management of waste both on-site and post construction is a concern. As a result over recent years, there has been an increasing commitment by the sector to adopt activities and practices that minimise the amount of waste that is sent to landfill, therefore minimising the sectors impact on the environment.

“Unfortunately no single waste management approach guarantees significant waste reduction and cost savings and re-educating the industries workforce will take time”, Mr Jennion said.

Traditionally the biggest limitation locally has been that unlike capital cities the volume of waste does not permit the economic recycling of waste. Pleasingly, with the support of the NSW Government, new opportunities in this area have recently been developed to assist our sector through the implementation of local avoidance and recycling measures.

“For example Cross Connections Consulting, an appointed facilitator under the NSW EPA funded Circulate Program, is to be applauded for developing an approach to collect and recycle plasterboard locally for the first time”, Mr Jennion said.

“This is changing the industries mindset that plasterboard is a resource, not waste while also providing outcomes such as immediate industry cost savings and improved environmental outcomes. Measures such as this are essential to support the industry in the future”.

HIA encourages recycling opportunities and reuse of material in the housing industry and will be discussing solutions at a special event on 22 March at East Maitland titled ‘*Wasted – Rethinking Waste on Site*’.

It will involve an experienced waste industry panel session discussing what is waste, how it should be managed, and most importantly for businesses, how they can ensure they don’t ‘waste’ opportunities to reduce business costs and the amount of material sent to landfill.

Open to both HIA members and non-members attendees can register their attendance by contacting HIA Hunter Events on 02 4014 2000, emailing hunter_events@hia.com.au or visiting www.hia.com.au/events

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For social media commentary from Craig Jennion:

