



Robert Fuller, Executive Director of the Master Builders Association, Newcastle.

NSW Parliament Public Works Committee Inquiry into Residential Energy Consumption

MBA – leading the industry since 1874

- our role, for over a century, has been to identify challenges facing the industry and help develop solutions
- our success is based on knowledge of our industry and development of expertise – builders talking to builders
- sustainability is an essential part of our future

EcoBuild

- making sustainability accessible
- Australia's most comprehensive showcase of over 160 building products
- simple examples that halve water and energy consumption
- 20,000 visitors a year

Newcastle City Council alliance

- Memorandum of Understanding with Newcastle City Council promoting Energy Smart Homes
- a partnership based on respect, understanding and common goals

Energy Smart hot water policy initiative

- inconsistent policy application across LGA prompted industry to encourage all 14 Hunter Councils to implement Energy Smart hot water policy
- industry negotiated supply and pricing with manufacturers
- training provided to builders, plumbers and council officers
- two day Solar Expo promoted benefits to the community
- our staff provided ongoing support for industry and consumers

Advisory service

- specialist Environmental Management staff provided an extremely popular free advisory service to members and their clients
- this face to face support delivered significant improvement
- constant contact with consumers and builders kept our staff in touch with reality

House Energy Rating service

- a low cost, fast turnover rating service – over 3,000 clients each year
- an opportunity to provide assessment and advice

Commercial Consulting

- specialist ESD consulting service delivered practical, cost effective strategies for energy and water savings on commercial projects

Policy challenges

- effective policy initiatives need good understanding of the industry, communication and consultation, consistency and practicality
- we've been operating for over a century , with another century ahead of us – government policies and departments seem to come and go making long term strategies hard to implement

The future

- NCC / MBA co-operation is a model for progress
- the expertise of our support and advisory services has been critical in allowing smooth adoption of new initiatives
- change needs to be properly managed, based on a clear, long term plan with appropriate resources applied to research, validation, training and promotion.