Moreton Bay Regional Council

The Research Director
Environment and Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Re: Inquiry into Energy Efficiency Improvements

Dear Mr Hansen,

Thank you for the opportunity for Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC) to comment on the Queensland Parliament Inquiry into Energy Efficiency.

The Moreton Bay Regional Council is located in South-East Queensland and is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland. The region extends to 2011 square kilometres, with an approximate population of 343,000 which is projected to be 523,000 persons by 2031. The Council has made a commitment to energy efficiency and creating a region that resilient to climate change.

Attached are a number of key points that Council would like the committee to consider in their report to Parliament.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Queensland Parliament Inquiry into Energy Efficiency.

For further information regarding the content of this letter, please contact **Evan Raymond** or **Dan MCCoy** on **5433 2476**.

Yours sincerely

Evan Raymond
Coordinator Sustainability Services
Strategic Direction and Sustainability

Barriers and impediments to improved energy efficiency

Standardisation of data delivery for sites

- Comprehensive measurement of energy use is imperative to managing energy. Data delivery from energy retailers needs to be delivered in a timely manner and in a standardised format. When managing large numbers of sites, manual data handling of multiple energy provider bills and following up to gain more information is very time consuming. Standardising data delivery also allows for automation.

Data Management

- Data management processes required to perform carbon accounting or prioritising and appraising energy efficiency actions are not currently factored into most data management systems, therefore benefit of the improvements cannot be measured.

Energy efficiency leading practice guidelines

- Energy efficiency is a constantly evolving industry and gaining objective up to date guidance on energy efficiency leading practices and technologies has proved challenging.

Demonstrating economic viability of energy efficiency actions

- To undertake energy efficiency actions, building a strong business case for change is required to show there is a monetary benefit against a non action or delayed action. Most of the contracted energy efficiency audits to date have not achieved the predicted savings and pay back periods. This has left facilities managers hesitant to invest further in large scale energy efficiency projects.

Building rating systems for existing office buildings

- There is little guidance for existing building retrofits to achieve a certain standard of energy efficiency. At present, only voluntary standards exist in National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) and the Aust. Green Building Rating scheme.

Capacity to design, build and manage energy efficient systems

- The way in which buildings are designed, built, retrofitted and operated has a significant impact on the energy use over the life of the building. In many instances, optimal efficiency may not be achieved due to lack of understanding a whole building approach.

Policies to Overcome Barriers

Information Point

- Council supports the development of a relevant website or forum on leading practice in energy efficiency design and upgrades with comprehensive data that can be used as an educational tool for facilities staff.

Building Rating

- Climate Smart 2050 states that all new office buildings will need to be a minimum 4 star NABERS rating from the 2010. There would be benefit of expanding this to existing office buildings when they undergo refurbishment. It is also suggested that the level be raised above the NABERS 4 star rating with all government buildings at NABERS 5 star rating.

Immediate Feedback

- Installation of smart meters to allow real time feedback of energy consumption.

Capacity Building - energy efficiency

- University - a recent study by found that energy efficiency training for engineering students in Australian Universities was fragmented and dependent on the University and Departmental focus. There was a lack of understanding between energy efficiency and whole systems design;
- Trades level – increase uptake of green plumbing and green electrician principles;
- Facilities Management level - improve capacity of existing professionals in energy efficiency;and
- Point of Sale training for sales staff - a couple of businesses have taken initiative through the EcoBiz program.

Information on Energy Efficiency Improvements

- Support National Australian Built Environment Rating System
- Promote best practice energy efficient homes on energy bills
- Develop top three ways to improve energy efficiency in electricity generation manufacturing, transport, mining, residential, and commercial and services sectors – use a range of targeted media.