

WADIC

Windows and Doors Industry Council

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NEWS

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Looking forward - looking back

In reviewing what she described as; “an extremely testing year, both in financial and political terms,” WADIC general manager Bronwyn Foord thanked member companies for their continuing support during 2009.

In summarising the past year Mrs Foord said it had been a very active one, including work in association with other industry bodies related on the Federal Government’s illegal logging policy development, particularly the preparation of a code of conduct for legally logged timber.

Looking to the year ahead she asked members to please consider WADIC as a partner in their business. “Know that whatever concerns you have in running your business day-to-day they are important to us. We do have a pool of resources that we can draw on to help you. The WADIC fraternity of members, large and small, deal with similar issues every day and I welcome your phone calls or emails.”

“If you want to tell me something that could be of interest or importance to other members I would like to hear about that as well. If you want to complain about what we at WADIC are or are not doing please get in touch,” she said.

In relation to communication with members she said the message does not always appear to get through. “Can I reinforce the value in putting some time aside to read WADIC newsletters, emails and to visit our website periodically that contains information and programs intended to assist members and their businesses.”

She highlighted WADIC’s support for the work of the Chamber of Commerce on the Federal



Bronwyn Foord, WADIC General Manager ... 2010 — it’s going to be a busy year and we look forward to having you along for the ride.

The Window and Door Industry Council Inc. (WADIC) is a service organisation representing the timber windows and door manufacturing sector. WADIC provides assistance to members to aid compliance with Australian standards and building codes. WADIC promotes the environmental and performance benefits of members’ products and provides members with information about energy rating systems. WADIC also acts on behalf of members in representations to governments and regulatory authorities to ensure that members’ rights and access to markets are safeguarded.

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Timber certification, window and door design manual and new energy rating software will all be on the agenda for WADIC in 2010.

Government’s Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). “Small to medium enterprises like most WADIC members would be impacted by at least a seven per cent loss in profitability. Given that the ETS would not apply to our competitors in China and elsewhere we would find ourselves even more uncompetitive.”

She indicated that for a typical small to medium enterprise consuming 160 megawatt hours of electricity a year this would add \$5000 to the yearly power bill. “This does not include increases we are already experiencing due to years of under investment in power generation, particularly in New South Wales.”

Mrs Foord paid tribute to the positive outcome resulting from industry and government advocacy in getting the Green Building Council to recognise the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) timber certification scheme. “The AFS certifies that timber is sourced from sustainably managed forests and plantations and meets internationally recognised environmental management standards.”

“Governments are now moving to review their own procurement guidelines to fully recognize the AFS and ensure that the Green Building Council and other environmental rating schemes recognise this standard. Many of us know how restrictive it has been to date

because only Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified timber products — generally not available — have been permitted in some projects. This is truly a breakthrough for those of us who were constantly requested and restricted to FSC certified material," she said.

Looking forward into 2010 Mrs Foord said the national review of OH&S laws to be adopted by all governments was completed in May 2009. "This should prove to be a beneficial move that will be important for WADIC members into the future. Along with this the Fair Work Act this will be the basis of the new Federal Government's workplace relations system."

"Most of the provisions of the Act, including unlawful dismissal provisions, came into force

on 1 July 2009. The two key exceptions are the National Employment Standards and the new look awards that came into effect on 1 January 2010."

Mrs Foord said the Timber Trade Industrial Association has agreed to work closely in supporting WADIC members with information during the workplace reform transition process and will be offering briefings in most states during the year. "These briefings will be notified on the WADIC website and WADIC members will be invited to attend."

She also mentioned the activity related to standards revision that followed the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria in February 2009. "AS3959 - 2009 was approved in March 2009

and has already been adopted by Victorian, ACT and Queensland with other states likely to follow suite this year."

She mentioned that substantial work still appears to be required to ensure that the revised standard aligns with the current New South Wales bush fire planning frame work, in particular the Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 requirements of the Rural Fire Service. "WADIC will need to stay engaged with this issue during the year."

"WADIC will continue to improve its communications with members via both our website and at planned state forums. So it's going to be a busy year and we look forward to having you along for the ride," she concluded.

Glass Selector software to be available to WADIC members

Many WADIC members will be aware of the Glass Selector software. Members will also know that the selection of the correct glass for every job is a critical part of their business practice.

The Glass Selector software package has been designed and made available to WADIC by Gary Evans from Evalock in Mittagong, New South Wales.

WADIC's general manager Bronwyn Foord said the work by WADIC foundation member Gary Evans again demonstrates the importance of the continued value of experienced members in helping colleagues in the industry.

"Glass Selector is a software program

designed to guide you through the Australia Standard AS1288 that deals with glass in residential and commercial window and door applications. The software allows you to select the correct glass in relation to a range of variables, such as human impact requirements and design wind loading."

According to Gary Evans AS 1288 is essentially the 'Bible' when it comes to glass in windows and doors and it is vital that joiners are able to demonstrate compliance with this standard. "By making the Glass Selector software available through WADIC window and door manufacturers will be able to demonstrate this necessary compliance to architects, regulators and customers."

Mr Evans said Glass Selector highlights options for annealed, toughened and laminated glass for single and double glazed windows and doors. "Prompts have been incorporated in the software for consideration under the standard, like manifestation, glass in shop fronts, partitions, early childhood and retirement or aged care facilities."

Mrs Foord said WADIC is planning to have Glass Selector independently assessed. There will be a trial period during which a hot line will be available and feedback welcomed whilst a validation process is undertaken. The Glass Selector will be offered to members initially to trial. It is envisaged that will form eventually part of the Compliance Manual to manual licensees at no additional further charge. Members other than licensees will be considered separately and some fee (yet to be established) will be required at the completion of the trial period.



Glass Selector software provides options for annealed, toughened and laminated glass for single and double glazed window and door manufacturing.

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