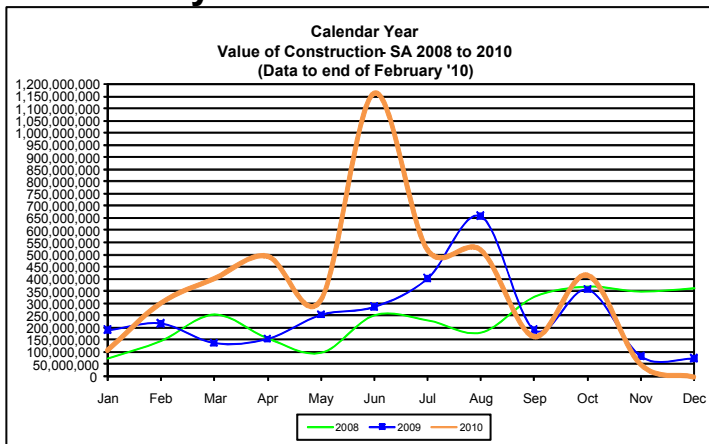


Construction Activity Report – to end of February 2010:



While the above graph seems very promising and the trend of construction value from January to June is in a progressive slope, the fact is that the steep increase in June reflects two projects that amount to an overall value of \$600,000,000.

As with all forecasting data the trend going forward is the key, and if we were to see the two projects delayed in their start times and as with most projects of that size see the timeline extend, then a more moderate trajectory line would extend in the general direction started in January, trending down toward the end of the year, as it has done over the last two years.

Members would also be aware that the Federal Government stimulus package's – BER schools projects are still a large component of work, but only a small component of mechanical construction.

AMCA SA Continues Support of Graduates

The 2010 Electrical & Refrigeration and the Air Conditioning Graduation class event took place on Friday, 26 March 2010. Led by Lawrence and Hanson and ten other sponsors (including AMCA SA), the evening celebrated twenty award recipients in various "Most Outstanding" categories, along with over fifty graduates receiving their certificates of completions, at both trade and diploma levels.

TAFE Northern Managing Director – Adrian Marron congratulated both the students and the large numbers of partners of graduates, family and friends who attended the event.

The organisers from the School of Electrical and Refrigeration & Air Conditioning are to be congratulated for an excellent event.

AMCA SA would especially like to congratulate Claudio Longobardi for his award as the Most Outstanding Advanced Diploma of Engineering (Refrigeration & Air Conditioning) Student for 2010.



L-R Claudio Longobardi receives graduation certificate and prize from AMCA SA

OH&S Site Safety Plan Software and Management Manuals Launched



Greg Francis (EQAS) provides an overview of the new software.

On the 26 February 2010, AMCA SA launched its new Site Safety Plan Software “site PSM” and accompanying management manuals, to an audience of construction industry, government and AMCA Members.

What does “sitePSM” do?

“sitePSM” is a software application that creates the site specific ‘Project Safety Manual’ for each construction project, using a database resource of people, equipment, and documents, edited in accordance with the user’s response to a selected, predetermined set of qualifying questions.

What are the benefits of “sitePSM” software?

- Provides consistency to the site specific safety planning process
- User prompts aid in improving the level of risk management rigour, yet make it easy to use
- Prevents inadvertent use of people & plant with expired approvals (eg licences, overdue mandatory inspections, required maintenance, etc)
- Saves time and streamlines the production of a tailored OHS site manual for each new work package
- Enables a range of persons to access the process and provide input
- Short form and full version print options available, and;
- Automated document revision status identification

How does “sitePSM” software work?

- A standard set of questions is presented to the user in a wizard format using a ‘drop down’ menu.
- Requires simple YES/NO answers and brief descriptive text input
- New hazards are assessed with an automated Risk calculator
- Allow users to easily configure software to ‘know’ the source document location (eg master SWI’s, WMS’s, MSDS’s etc), as well as destinations for the final OHS Site manual location.
- A people database maintains qualification, licensing, expiry and training data of your ‘own’ employees plus those of your preferred subcontractors
- A Plant and Equipment Asset database stores preventative maintenance standards, actual maintenance data, safety check and expiry dates, and other relevant information pertaining to the equipment used on site.

Occupational Health Safety & Welfare Management Systems Manual

This manual provides an Introduction, an OHS&W Policy, Safety Roles and Responsibilities, Safety Systems Procedures, Work Method Statements, Safe Work Instructions, Various forms from First Aid Register through to Authority to Release Medical Information, Using & Understanding MSDS. Many of those documents are used in the software that assists in the preparation of the Site Safety Plan.

Occupational Health Safety & Welfare Programme Guidelines

This manual was developed to target the management of OHS&W within the member’s company.

This small ring bound kit outlines:

Safety Legislation & Codes, a Responsibilities section, the consultation process, Hazard Management, Training, Establishing an Organisational OHS Manual and finally the step by step, screen by screen of producing a Site Safety Manual, including how to load the software in the first place.

Safety Tool Box Talks Manual

Finally, we have (courtesy of AMCA Victoria) a manual which includes presentation guides for 52 construction talks and 52 service talks and instructional videos. SA has also added question and answer Assessment Sheets for each one of the Tool Box Talks and a template Attendance Registration Sheet. Records of attendance at a tool box talk must be included in the employee's records.

Security of Payment Training begins

On 11 and 12 March 2010, over 100 members from the Civil, Plumbing, Electrical, Fire and Air Conditioning and Mechanical contractors attended Security of Payment training.

The full day sessions provided an extensive overview of the new Act as well as the practical steps of implementing the claims process.

Key to the presentation was the realisation by attendees of the need to have excellent contract and administration management to improve the likelihood of a successful claim. To this end, there will be a course run on the subject of contract and administration management later in the year, as well as a short refresher on the SOP process.

The limitation of simulation

Excerpt from Article in Ecolibrium Issue February 2010 Vol 9.1 Page 22

Each simulation tool has limitations, and the engineer using the tool needs to have a clear understanding of these and their impacts on what is being modelled in order to interpret the resulting data and understand its validity.

For example, it's easier to model heating systems than cooling systems, but the latter typically have a huge impact on the energy efficiency of Australian buildings. A simulation tool that doesn't handle the plant side of air conditioning particularly well – the numbers and positions of chillers and pumps and so on – is more likely to give a result that deviates from actual performance.

For glazing, models need to take into account angular dependence, and the properties of the different coatings. A tool that does not perform strongly in this area of modelling will produce energy-efficiency figures that differ from reality.

Yet another example is insulation. The theoretical value of insulation is never achieved in reality because of construction factors such as the bridging between insulation layers. How well different modelling tools account for this variation in theoretical versus actual insulation values affects the accuracy of energy efficiency figures produced.

So the choice of tool is important, and so too is an understanding of its strengths and weaknesses. An experienced modeller will understand how the simulation tool operates, what simulated values are likely to vary in operation, and to what extent.

The ways in which the individual systems in a building are integrated and work together is crucial to energy efficiency. This means that a building designer must be something of a jack of all trades, with working knowledge of chillers, pumps, control systems, electric lighting systems, glazing, solar geometry and facades, among others, and the ability to integrate the elements for the best possible outcomes.

The best way to develop this knowledge is through a combination of real-world experience and mentoring from an expert.

SA's Syd says so long, sadly

Excerpt from Ecolibrium Issue February 2010 Volume 9.1 Page 42

AIRAH life member Syd Foster has stepped down from the South Australian Division committee.

Citing a heavy workload and health issues, Syd Foster has resigned from AIRAH's South Australia Division committee.

"It is with great regret that I tender my resignation from the SA Division committee," Foster says. "This has come about due to my current workload, and more importantly, health issues. These have been going for some time now, and I feel that I cannot commit to the committee as I should."

Foster, will however, remain involved in activities such as the South Australia Awards nights.

"I would like to thank all of the committee members for their support over the years," he says.

From AMCA National Office SEMINAR - PLACES FILLING FAST!

Gordon Holness, current ASHRAE President will be visiting Australia in April to attend the ARBS Exhibition in Sydney. Gordon will also be visiting Melbourne to meet members and deliver a seminar immediately after the exhibition. The topic of Gordon's seminar is "Sustaining our Future by Rebuilding our Past". Tony Arnell, Victoria's Building Commissioner, will also speak at the seminar.

Bookings are Essential. The session will be held at 4.00 pm, Wednesday 14 April 2010. Venue is Treasury Theatre, Lower Plaza, 1 Macarthur Street, East Melbourne

Enquiries should be directed to Anna Trevorah - <mailto:anna@amca.com.au> or phone (03) 9888 8266. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.amca.com.au/>

AMCA Holds Positive Discussions with ARC

The AMCA Service Managers Committee recently raised some concerns with the licensing arrangements administered by the Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC). The AMCA believes that ARC responded in a positive manner to industry concerns in particular consideration has now been made to ensure processes are modified and individuals are notified of changes with updating of Refrigerant Trading Authorisation and Refrigerant Handling Licence in a more transparent manner. In 2010, the AMCA will continue to keep dialogue open with ARC to help with their continuous improvement program.

The AMCA Service Managers Committee also held its first meeting for the year. The Committee will look to increase its influence externally and also bolster AMCA initiatives within the membership this year. For further details regarding the Committee or issues pertinent for the Committee's attention, please contact Peter Verberne, Executive Officer – OHS and IR, on (03) 9888 8286 or alternatively via email: pverberne@amca.com.au.

Introduction of the Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Bill 2010

Last Thursday Minister Combet introduced the *Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Bill 2010* (the

Bill) into the Commonwealth Parliament. Some of the characteristics of the Bill will include:

- providing the establishment of a new national scheme for the disclosure of commercial office building energy efficiency;
- the scheme will require the disclosure of information about the energy efficiency of large commercial office buildings at the point of sale, lease and sublease. The information to be disclosed will be in the form of a building energy efficiency certificate (BEEC). A BEEC will have three components: an energy efficiency star rating for the office building; information about the energy efficiency of the office lighting; and generic guidance on how the energy efficiency of the office may be improved;
- BEECs will be accessible to potential purchasers and lessees via an online registry. The applicable energy efficiency star rating must be disclosed in any advertisement for the sale, lease or sublease of an office;
- the scheme will provide the commercial office market with credible information about the relative energy efficiency of offices that are for sale, lease and sublease. This will enable potential purchasers and lessees to consider energy efficiency as part of their decision making processes. In so doing, the scheme will empower the market with information that will encourage energy efficiency improvements to be carried out; and
- funding of \$5.3 million over four years was committed by the Government in the 2009-10 Budget to support the development and implementation of the scheme. The allocation of this funding commenced in 2009-10. This funding is intended to cover both the initial phase of the scheme, covering office buildings, and the expansion of the scheme over the coming years to include other types of commercial buildings. Administration of the scheme will be undertaken with the objective of moving to full cost recovery at the cessation of this funding.

The Bill, Explanatory Memorandum and Second Reading Speech are available by clicking on the Parliament [website](#)

For further details please contact Sumit Oberoi, Policy Analyst, AMCA on 8831 2815, or alternatively by email: sumitoberoi@amca.com.au.

RBA Concerned about Commercial Property...

In its latest 6-monthly review of the financial system the Reserve Bank said funding conditions for Australian banks have improved since its last review but concerns remain about the commercial property sector where valuations have fallen. "There has been a more significant deterioration in the quality of banks' business loans portfolios, particularly for commercial property, and this remains an area to watch closely in the period ahead." In the household sector, incomes have continued to grow solidly but the RBA said that "higher interest rates appear to have had a dampening effect on housing finance." The Australian economy is alone in the Group of 20 countries to escape recession and start raising interest rates.

..... but Better Times Ahead

Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), the latest real estate firm to revise its office vacancy forecasts because of improved economic conditions, said the case is strengthening for a commercial property recovery by the end of the calendar year. Demand for office space has "come back stronger than most people have expected and the duration of the downturn has been shorter," head of JLL research David Rees said.

Gillard Backs Employers - Again

Workplace Relations Minister Julia Gillard and the Australian Industry Group (AiG) will seek to overturn a Fair Work Australia decision that found flexibility provisions in the *Fair Work Act* cannot be used to vary the terms of an enterprise agreement. The Minister said she has decided to seek a review of an aspect of the decision by Commissioner John Ryan in respect of an agreement between manufacturer TriMas Corporation and the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union. AiG CEO Heather Ridout said: "Flexibility provisions were devised by the federal government to provide flexibility for employers and employees to agree to vary the terms of an enterprise agreement, provided that the employee is better off overall."

Training Update

TAFE SA Short Courses

Registration of interest required by **WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 2010** for the following courses. Details sent out by email.

Courses Offered:

Air Conditioning Control Systems
Applied Psychometrics

Refrigeration System Analysis HVAC Air Systems

Cost: \$450 for 10 week Course commencing 21 April 2010

Contact: Maureen Haynes 8234 7899 or email: mrhaynes@amcasa.com.au

AMCA Fundamental Service Leadership 1

Commencing: 4 – 7 May 2010

Venue: Waratah Room, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2807 Gold Coast Highway Queensland

Booking forms are available on the National AMCA website:

<http://www.amca.com.au/index.php?training>

required by **TUESDAY 30 MARCH 2010**

Contact: Martin Dennison AMCA NSW on 02 9662 2033 or email: martin@amcansw.com.au for course and accommodation information

PEER – Upskilling Training

Website: www.peer.com.au

Click on Training

Click on Upskilling Calendar for Training Schedules for 2010

White Card

Rescue Resuscitation

Please check available dates with PEER

Contact: 08 8348 1200 or email:

peertecoperations@peer.com.au

BCA 2010 Information Seminars

Website: www.abcb.gov.au

Adelaide Tuesday 20 April 2010, 9.30 – 12.30 pm
Stamford Plaza, 150 North Terrace, Adelaide

Cost: BCA Subscribers: \$180.00, On-Line registration \$160.00

Standard \$195.00 On-Line registration \$175.00

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://www.secureregistrations.com/bca2010seminars/>

*Please note, online registrations by credit card only. For EFT payments please [contact the event organiser](#) using the details below.

GREEN STAR COURSES – ADELAIDE

Website: www.gbca.org.au

Click on Education & Courses, Course Calendar, Browse by Location (SA), Heading of each Course to register

Green Star Accredited Professional Course 8 April 9 -5 pm Adelaide Convention Centre

Green Star Project Certification Workshop 12 May 9-12 Venue to be advised

NABERS – Introductory Seminar 2010

Website: www.nabers.com.au

Adelaide, 11 May, 9.00 – 11.30 am, Rydges South Park, 1 South Terrace

RBA Minutes Signal More Rate Hikes to Come but No Further Guidance on Timing

The minutes of February Reserve Bank Board meeting reaffirm the central bank's strong tightening bias but remained silent on the issue of the timing of any further interest rate increases. After leaving the cash rate unchanged in February, growing evidence that the economic recovery was taking hold led the Reserve Bank to lift rates +25 basis points to 4 per cent at its March meeting. The Reserve Bank is expecting the economic recovery will continue to gather pace in 2010 and that as it does it will be "appropriate for interest rates to move gradually towards normal levels". There was no real change in rhetoric from the Reserve Bank in the minutes and the fact that they were open-ended on the timing of any future increase in interest rates leaves the issue largely data dependent.

Fair Work Act 2010 Annual Wage Review – ACCI Submission

ACCI's submission to the Annual Wage Review was lodged on Friday. It confirms support for conditional increases of \$12.50 per week up to the trades rate and \$10.50 for rates above that figure. Key points in the submission argue –

- The process of recovery from the economic downturn is uneven with many businesses still struggling with the impact of rate rises, weak demand and lack of access to capital.
- These factors are impacting particularly in award reliant sectors like retail, hospitality and business services.
- The principal focus must continue to be upon outcomes determined in individual workplaces based upon the needs of that workplace and its employees. This is the only way to achieve growth and productivity gains.
- Changes in the Fair Work laws are designed to overcome barriers to bargaining that have been perceived to exist in the past, particularly in the SME sector.
- Many businesses will face additional costs already from 1st July as they begin to transition to new Modern Award conditions.

The ACTU are seeking an increase of \$27 arguing that the economy is back to "business as usual" and their claim is 'affordable'. The Commonwealth, and State Governments in Victoria, Queensland and WA have also lodged submissions.

Fair Work Act 2010

National Employment Standards (NES)

The NES represent a set of minimum standards that apply to all employees within the federal system. With the referral of the States industrial relations powers to the Federal Government as of 1 January 2010 the NES will apply to **all** private sector employers in South Australia. These standards apply to employees even if they are not covered by an award or an agreement. If employees are covered by an award or an agreement and the provisions of that award or agreement are less favourable to the employee than the NES, the relevant NES provision will apply, if the award or agreement provisions are more favourable to the employee then the conditions in the award or agreement will apply.

1. **Maximum weekly hours of work**
38 hours per week, plus reasonable additional hours.
2. **Requests for flexible working arrangements**
allows parents or carers of a child under school age or of a child under 18 with a disability, to request a change in working arrangements to assist with the child's care.
3. **Parental leave and related entitlements**
up to 12 months unpaid leave for every employee, plus a right to request an additional 12 months unpaid leave, plus other forms of maternity, paternity and adoption related leave.
4. **Annual leave**
4 weeks paid leave per year, plus an additional week for certain shift workers.

5. **Personal / carer's leave and compassionate leave**

10 days paid personal / carer's leave, two days unpaid carer's leave as required per annum, and two days compassionate leave (unpaid for casuals) as required.

6. **Community service leave**

unpaid leave for voluntary emergency activities and leave for jury service, with an entitlement to be paid for up to 10 days for jury service per annum.

7. **Long service leave**

a transitional entitlement for certain employees who had certain LSL entitlements before 1/1/10 pending the development of a uniform national long service leave standard. The LSL Act of South Australia will continue to apply to the majority of employees in this State.

8. **Public holidays**

a paid day off on a public holiday, except where reasonably requested to work.

9. **Notice of termination and redundancy pay**

up to 4 weeks notice of termination (5 weeks if the employee is over 45 and has at least 2 years of continuous service) and up to 16 weeks redundancy pay, both based on length of service.

10. **Provision of a Fair Work Information Statement**

employers must provide this statement to all new employees. This document is available from www.fwa.gov.au

(Paid annual leave, personal leave, community service, public holiday leave, termination/redundancy pay do not apply to casual employees)

FAIR WORK Act - References

To assist Members to become familiar with the Fair Work Act and its more general application, we have included some links to government sites. The sites below were provided in the November – December newsletter:

National Employment Standards:

www.fairwork.gov.au click on “Employers” tag and search for topic of interest.

Modern Awards:

To identify which Award your employees are covered under - Go To:

www.fairwork.gov.au, click on “Awards and award modernisation” in the drop down menu on the left column, or Go To:

<http://www.airc.gov.au/awardmod/fullbench/awards.htm> and from here you will get a full list of all of the Modern Awards and be able to download a copy, or contact AMCA SA.

Fair Work – FACT SHEETS:

There are some concise Fact Sheets relating to a whole range of subjects surrounding Human Resources and Industrial Relations (see list below). To get these Fact Sheets go to our web site www.amcasa.com.au and on the front page you will see the list of subjects and how to download them.

About the Fair Work Authority

- Freedom of Information
- Infringement Notices
- Power of Fair Work Inspectors

Conditions Of Employment

- Modern Awards
- Termination of Employment

Employer Obligations

- Employer Obligations in Relation to Employee Records and Pay Slips
- Right of Entry

Workplace Rights

- Enterprise Bargaining
- General Workplace Protections
- Independent Contractors & Employees
- Industrial Action
- Unlawful Workplace Discrimination

National Employment Standards

- Annual Leave
- Community Service Leave
- Long Service Leave
- Maximum Weekly Hours
- Notice of Termination and Redundancy Pay
- Parental Leave and Related Entitlements
- Personal / Carer's Leave and Compassionate Leave
- Public Holidays
- Requests for Flexible Working Arrangements

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RDOs:

38 HOUR WEEK – ROSTER:

RDO 3	-	2 Apr
RDO 4	-	26 Apr
RDO 5	-	17 May

36 HOUR WEEK – ROSTER:

LDO 4	-	6 Apr
LDO 5	-	3 May

Members should check with individual site owners and their contractual provisions.

Executive Meetings:

(usually 1st Tuesday of the month @ 3:00 pm)

-	6th Apr	4:00 pm
-	4th May	3:00 pm
-	1st Jun	3:00 pm

General Meetings:

(following on from the Executive meeting every third month, Tuesday @ 5:00 pm)

-	1st Jun	5:00 pm
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Air Conditioning Services Group (ASG) Meetings:

(bi-monthly meetings commencing @ 7:30 am)

-	21st Apr	7:30 am
-	17th Jun	7:30 am

Associate Members Meetings:

(bi-monthly meetings commencing @ 4:00 pm)

-	22nd Apr	8:00 am
-	18th Jun	8:00 am

Women in Air Conditioning :

(monthly meetings commencing @ 3:30 pm)

-	10th May	9:00 am
-	7th Jun	9.00 am

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