



SA News

Volume 7, Issue 6

June 2009

AMCA SA Expresses Concern to State Government over Cancelled Prisons Project

The Executive Committee has recently instructed the Executive Director to write to the Premier of South Australia – Hon. Mike Rann expressing concerns regarding the cancellation of five substantial construction projects collectively known as the Prisons Project.

In part our correspondence indicated:

"We write on behalf of the members of Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association of South Australia Incorporated (AMCA SA), to raise our concerns at your government's recent decision to cancel four major construction projects in South Australia being

- *the Release Centre – Cavan,*
- *the Secure Youth Detention Centre – Cavan,*
- *the New Mens & Womens Prison – Mobilong and;*
- *the Forensic Mental Health – Mobilong SA*

In a period during which governments across Australia and internationally are putting in place construction stimulus packages to try and maintain a viable commercial building and construction industry during the current financial crisis, it would appear that these major government projects are not considered important".

"As specialist contractors and service providers to the commercial building and construction industry, the loss of these projects will impact on employment in skilled trades, project management and apprenticeships that we can ill afford to be unemployed in the medium to long term".

"While recognising that as Premier your government has promised that the various consortiums bidding for these projects will be compensated for their

efforts, we seek an assurance from you that those specialist sub-contractors who provided their skills, materials and labour in both the preparation of bids and the construction of the buildings, receive an equitable share of those compensation packages as part of the process".

The AMCA has received acknowledgments from the Premier's office and Minister Conlon's office and the Treasurer has spoken and written back expressing his concern at the need to cancel these projects as part of the State Government's attempt to deliver a responsible budget in 2009 / 2010.

Industry Code of Practice Ready for Review and Implementation

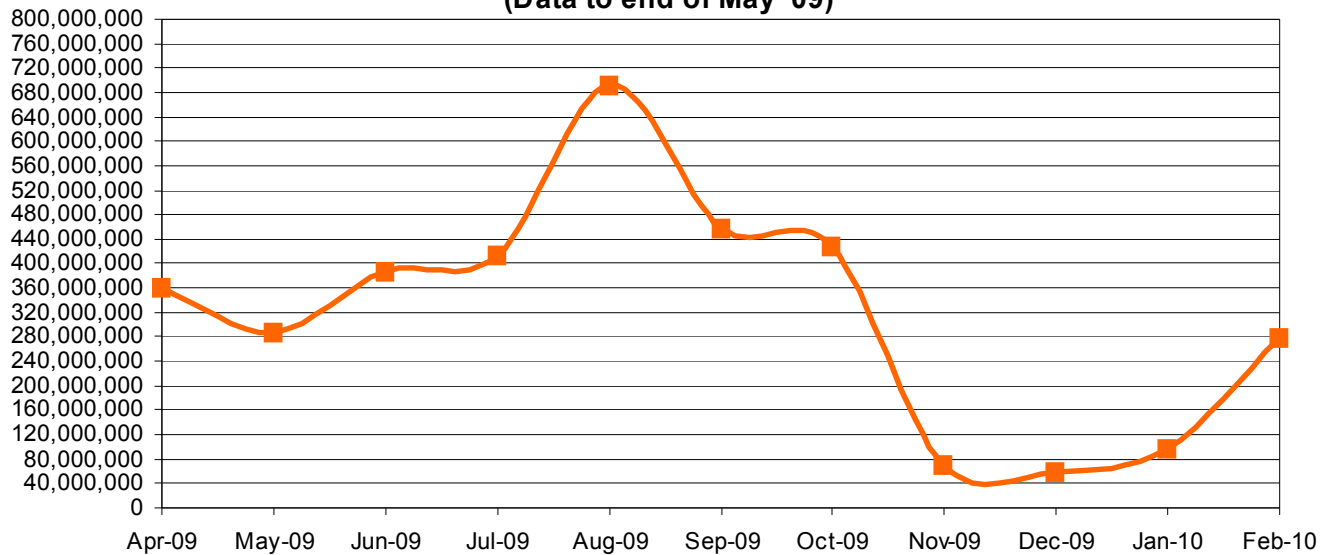
After many months and substantial work by our Reference Group and subsequently the ACCC and our solicitors, we believe that over the next month the Industry Reference Group will be able to review and approve the "Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Industry Code of Practice".

Currently a draft Constitution is being prepared for the operation, membership and management of this new Code.

A Code Administration Committee is also required to be established with members including air conditioning and mechanical service representatives, other construction industry representatives and government authorities.

The Code provides for a complaints resolution process, penalties and codes of behaviour in Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare, Environmental Management, Industrial Relations, Continuous Improvement & Best Practice and Tender Practices.

Value of Construction (with a given start date)
S.A. - 12 Months Forward
(Data to end of May '09)



AMCA SA Construction Activity Report:

Over the last month the trend in construction activity declined slightly for July, continued to pick up in August, September and October (as compared to the same months reported in May), with a sharp decline in activity as we move to the end of the year.

There have been fewer delays of existing projects reported in the last month of data.

The Federal Government's – "Building the Education Revolution" Stimulus Package, school construction projects have yet to be registered in any great numbers in the data.

There has been no adjustment for the cancelled Prisons Projects (see above Chart).

Legislation Changes Refrigeration Choices

Article from Climate Control News, Issue June 2009 Page 11

In anticipation of the Federal Government's carbon pollution reduction scheme, scheduled for launch in 2011, Heatcraft has launched the Gas2Go program which tracks and optimises refrigerant use. The gas management system utilises a pick-up and drop-off practice, while incorporating recording and reporting of all purchases for compliance with the recently updated Australian Refrigeration Council regulations.

With the introduction of the CPRS the price of synthetic greenhouse gases is expected to increase anywhere between 500 and 1000 per cent. Recycling and destroying waste refrigerant is set to become a more crucial component of gas handling. A refrigerant reclamation program, Ready2Reclaim has been introduced by the company to handle the safe disposal of waste and unused gas.

Legislation phasing out HCFC gas R22 has also motivated Heatcraft to launch a drop-in replacement for the ozone-depleting gas. SP22C, is capable of operating on lower pressures than R22 and delivers better performance efficiency, can be retrofitted to many systems currently operating on R22 or R407C, not requiring new compressors or major component changes.

"The HCFC phase out is reminiscent of the CFC phase out in the early 1990s" said Refrigerant & Controls Category Manager, Anthony Harrigan. "With the Carbon Trading Scheme and Kyoto Protocol imminent, we will all need to be ready to make some major changes in refrigerant choices."

The supplier has also launched an in-house training program, which focuses on legislative compliance, future generation refrigerants and their application and handling.

"With legislation changes and environmental awareness, our customers are keen to learn and be confident they are up to date," said Harrigan. "With some major supermarkets already changing to CO₂, customers need to be aware of sustainable cooling

solutions, which refrigerants to recommend and when to retrofit”.

National Legislation for Every Tradie

Article from Climate Control News, Issue June 2009 Page 12

A national registration system for tradespeople is under development following the recent meeting of the Council of Australian Governments. Fridgies will face the same training and licensing standards in every state in the country, instead of each region having its own individual rules. Electricians, plumbers and those in the maritime and building trades will also come under the new arrangements. The national system is currently under development and is expected to be complete with 18 months. A chief executive officer will be appointed to run the organisation, and a board of directors will govern the new entity.

Peter Tighe from the Communications, Electrical, Plumbing Union told the ABC the changes would make working interstate much easier for today's tradies.

“For a person who was working as a contractor in Albury to be able to operate in Wodonga, quite often they had to seek two sets of registration with different standards,” he said.

“So you won't have that in the future. And it also assists those [national] companies ... if they're moving their staff from state to state there isn't this problem.”

Management is the new black for high-performance buildings

Article from Ecolibrium The Official Journal of AIRAH Issue May 2009 – Volume 8-4 Page 10

A new report suggests major advances can be achieved in energy efficiency without spending big.

Released by the University of Sydney's Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering, the *Low Energy High Rise Building Research Report* investigates the possibility of making advances in energy efficiency by changing management practices rather than investing in major capital expenditure in technologies.

“... the greatest environmental gains can be achieved with little or no cost. Even better, the energy savings can put money back into the pockets of owners and tenants.”

The report involved a survey of 127 buildings in Australia's capital cities. Extensive analysis covering the attitudes and energy management

practices of tenants as well as building, asset and portfolio managers showed that most buildings could achieve a 4 Star NABERS Energy base building rating solely through improved management practices.

“This report is internationally ground-breaking,” says project director Sue Salmon. “It proves that despite the global financial crisis, major improvements in energy efficiency are possible without huge capital expenditure.

“What it is telling us is that the greatest environmental gains can be achieved with little or no cost. Even better, the energy savings can put money back into the pockets of owners and tenants.”

Salmon says the survey revealed the key features of buildings that perform well related to human attitudes and practices.

“For example, buildings where management is at least partially in-sourced perform better by as much as 1.3 stars NABERS energy rating,” she says. “And buildings where the building, asset and portfolio manager all feel able to affect efficiency perform better by 0.9 stars.”

Buildings that disclose their NABERS performance to tenants perform better by 0.5 stars NABERS Energy.

“This corresponds to a performance improvement of approximately 30 per cent for an average building,” Salmon says. “Extrapolated across the CBD office building sector, this would be equivalent to a 1.2 per cent reduction in Australia's total emissions.”

AMCA Dinner

The AMCA Annual Dinner 2009 is being held at the Royal Adelaide Golf Club on Friday, 17 July 2009 from 7.00 pm for pre-dinner drinks.

For further information please contact Maureen on 8234 2899.

MSDS Service

For a nominal annual fee you can ensure your MSDS register is current by subscribing to the AMCA for a Chemwatch service.

You need to provide a copy of your MSDS register including the name of the product, vendor and date of current MSDS.

For further information please contact Lizz on 8234 2899

OECD Economic Outlook – June 2009

The slowdown in OECD economies may have reached the bottom, according to the OECD's latest *Economic Outlook* released on June 24. Nevertheless, the report indicated that the recovery is likely to be weak and fragile and the economic and social damage caused by the crisis will be long-lasting.

The Australian economy is expected to contract 0.5 per cent in 2009, followed by a 1¼ per cent growth in 2010. In 2009, consumer prices inflation is expected to fall to 1.9 per cent and unemployment rate increase to 6.2 per cent.

While temporary stimulus measures appear to have cushioned the economy during the crisis, the OECD argued that a clear and credible plan and timeline are needed for phasing out the emergency measures as the economy recovers to prevent new risks in the years ahead.

IMF's concluding statements on Article IV consultation to Australia

On June 23, the IMF released its preliminary policy recommendations following its Article IV consultation to Australia. The near term growth outlook for Australia remains weak and highly uncertain. Australia's real GDP is projected to contract by 0.5 per cent in 2009 before rebounding 1.5 per cent in 2010. The recovery is likely to be led by government spending. Output is likely to remain below potential for a number of years contributing to a fall in core inflation.

Amongst the IMF's recommendations are:

- In view of the still fragile state of the global economy, the Reserve Bank should be more cautious than normal in tightening the monetary policy;
- If the outlook for growth weakens, further loosening of monetary policy should be used as the first line of defence
- If trend growth or the terms of trade were lower than previously projected, government revenue will be impacted and thus further fiscal adjustment would be needed to return the budget back to surpluses at a horizon consistent with the government's medium-term objective. In particular, the growth of real government spending would need to be constrained below the 2 per cent annual rate envisaged in the Federal Budget.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RDOs:

38 HOUR WEEK – ROSTER:

| | | |
|-------|---|-------|
| RDO 7 | - | 6 Jul |
| RDO 8 | - | 3 Aug |
| RDO 9 | - | 7 Sep |

36 HOUR WEEK – ROSTER:

| | | |
|--------|---|--------|
| LDO 8 | - | 20 Jul |
| LDO 9 | - | 17 Aug |
| LDO 10 | - | 21 Sep |

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

Executive Meetings:

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

| | | |
|---|----------------------|---------|
| - | 7 th Jul | 3:00 pm |
| - | 4 th Aug | 3:00 pm |
| - | 1 st Sept | 3:00 pm |

General Meetings:

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

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------|
| - | 1 st Sep (AGM) | 5:00 pm |
| - | 1 st Dec | 5:00 pm |

Air Conditioning Services Group (ASG) Meetings:

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

| | | |
|---|----------------------|---------|
| - | 12 th Aug | 7:30 am |
| - | 27 th Oct | 7:30 am |
| - | 9 th Dec | 7:30 am |

Associate Members Meetings:

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

| | | |
|---|----------------------|---------|
| - | 13 th Aug | 4:00 pm |
| - | 28 th Oct | 4:00 pm |
| - | 10 th Dec | 4:00 pm |

Women in Air Conditioning :

(monthly meetings commencing @ 3:30 pm)

| | | |
|---|----------------------|---------|
| - | 17 th Aug | 3:30 pm |
| - | 21 st Sep | 3:30 pm |

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