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Media Release

Use of recycled materials in road construction project Phase 2

The recycled materials research project, a joint initiative between NATSPEC, Sustainability Victoria, the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Victoria, the Civil Contractors Federation and the Office of Projects Victoria, has entered its second phase.

The project investigates how local governments around Australia are using recycled materials in roads and civil construction, their targets for increasing use of recycled materials, and barriers that may be preventing them from doing so.

Phase 1, which began in March, involved sending an enquiry to all local councils. NATSPEC received 65 responses. The valuable data was collated into a Project Report *Use of recycled materials for roadworks in local government* and sent with the new draft TECHnote *GEN 028 Specifying recycled materials for roads using AUS-SPEC* to all local council technical directors.

The most popular recycled materials among respondents were reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and crushed concrete. Many councils expressed an interest in using crushed glass. The majority of councils with formal documentation for recycled content in roads used state road authorities' specifications.

Phase 2 now sees NATSPEC reaching out to a wider group of local councils, contractors, consultants and suppliers with a survey to better understand their positions on recycled content in road construction and to identify what may be the barriers preventing further use of recycled materials. This will provide us with clearer insight into the best way to include this information in the AUS-SPEC specification system.

The end result of the project will be the development of new specifications that directly reference a variety of recycled materials and provide local councils with the expertise they need to use recycled materials in road works.

NATSPEC and its partners' final aim in conducting this research is to reduce waste going to landfill. Using recycled materials such as reclaimed asphalt pavement, crushed concrete, crumb rubber, glass and plastic in road construction and maintenance directly reduces the amount of waste local councils send to landfill.

AUS-SPEC is the national local government specification. It is an essential technical resource for delivering sustainable local government assets. Managed by NATSPEC, it is a joint venture between NATSPEC and IPWEA. NATSPEC provides the National Building Specification for Australia.

For more information, visit: www.natspec.com.au.

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STAKEHOLDERS

- Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association of Australia
- Australian Elevator Association
- Australian Institute of Architects
- Australian Institute of Building
- Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
- Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Directorate (ACT)
- Construction Industry Engineering Services Group
- Consult Australia
- Department of Finance (Federal)
- Department of Finance (WA)
- Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (NSW)
- Department of Housing and Public Works (QLD)
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (NT)
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- Master Builders Australia
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NATSPEC, founded in 1975, is a not-for-profit organisation with the objective of improving the quality of construction in Australia.