

Facility Management Association of Australia, World FM Day, Friday 28 August

Statement from the Hon Jay Weatherill MP, Minister for Environment and Conservation

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement to you today.

The facilities management industry not only makes an enormous contribution to the Australian economy, but is also positioned to make an equally large contribution to our environment.

Here in South Australia, it's been estimated that the commercial services sector contributes around 10% of our State's emissions. Office buildings make up a significant proportion of these emissions. So if we can 'green' our office buildings, we can make real inroads on reducing our State's overall emissions.

To achieve this – and meet our target within South Australia's Strategic Plan to limit and reduce our State's greenhouse gas emissions, we're putting in place some real changes.

All new government buildings here have to be constructed to a minimum five star rating. We also give preference to energy efficient buildings for all new leases and lease referrals.

And we want our State to be leader in retrofitting existing buildings. We've established the Building Innovation Fund, which will provide \$2 million in grants for cutting edge initiatives that reduce energy use and emissions in existing buildings.

Earlier this week we announced that the Fund will support the development of Adelaide's first 'living wall'. This is just one example of the way in which we are supporting the commercial office building sector here to be the most progressive in Australia.

But as managers of facilities, you're aware that just building green a green facility is not enough – it must be managed in such a way to maximise its green potential. This is will be an increasing challenge in both procurement and facilities management – and will need an innovative new approach to both if we are to have a truly green building sector.

However, we can take these approaches in the knowledge that, along with the contribution green buildings can make to our sustainable future green buildings have strong commercial advantages.

There's the immediate benefit to tenants of a lower energy use – and therefore lower costs. And green buildings are often seen as better places to work – they can increase productivity. This translates into buildings that are more attractive to tenants in what is becoming a more and more competitive market.

This commercial advantage – along with an environmental imperative – means that there is no better time to focus on the opportunities you have for making a real contribution to our environment

I trust that you enjoy your celebration of this, the inaugural World FM Day – and that it becomes an annual event that celebrates the contribution the facilities management sector makes to our economy and to our environment.