



MECLA

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

© MECLA 2024.

This report was compiled by Hudson Worsley (Chair, MECLA), Monica Richter (Project Director, MECLA), Kathy Verheyen (Senior Project Manager, MECLA), and Alexander Barnstone (Project Manager, MECLA).

MECLA acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

MECLA is funded through commitments by two state governments, as well as industry contributions and philanthropic funding and managed by WWF Australia, Presync and Climate-KIC Australia.



CLIMATEKIC
Australia



WWF



Presync



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	iii	Working Group 5e: Building services	17
2023 Impact at a glance	iv	Working Group 5f: Engineered timber	17
Executive summary	1	Working Group 6: Residential	18
About MECLA	3	Policy input & engagement	19
How we work	6	Events	21
Impact summary 2023	7	Knowledge Development & Sharing	22
Working Groups	9	MECLA members and participants	23
Working Group 1: Procurement & Demand-Side	10	Materials embodied carbon ecosystem	23
Working Group 2: Measurement and Disclosure	12	Broader networks	24
Working Group 3/4: Guidance	13	Governance	25
Working Group 5a: Steel	14	PCG members	25
Working Group 5b: Concrete and Cement	15	Secretariat	27
Working Group 5c: Aluminium	16	Financials	28
Working Group 5d: Other materials	16		



FOREWORD

Hudson Worsley
Chair, MECLA

2023 has been a year of growing momentum in the collective actions of the Materials and Embodied Carbon Leaders' Alliance (MECLA), our member organisations and movement across the construction and infrastructure sector. Embodied carbon is becoming an increasing focus for leading companies, government agencies and policy advocates. This report provides a catalogue of the many examples where MECLA's collaboration across our complex ecosystem is having an impact.

In our recent Project Control Group strategy discussions, we considered the question; 'what next for MECLA?' The response made it clear that although we have begun to shift the thinking and actions of a significant leading group within the industry, we are just at the beginning. MECLA is by name, and nature, a leadership group. It is therefore incumbent upon us to continue our work, building the momentum for change so that the fast followers and eventually

the laggards also adopt the mindset, materials, systems and processes to cut embodied carbon across the entire construction and infrastructure sector.

It is wonderful that our 'do tank' is having such an impact. Of course, the many impacts only come about because individual members are so committed to make them happen. And because member companies recognise the many benefits of our mission. I'd like to express my gratitude to every person who has attended our Spotlight events, spoken on panels, dialled into and done the work in the working groups and then continued the conversations in their work ensuring the ripple effect spreads well beyond MECLA'S immediate audience. Thank you for your time, your expertise and your stubborn optimism, that together we can bring construction emissions onto a Paris-aligned trajectory!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The urgency required to address the climate crisis coupled with the complexity within the construction ecosystem with many different players and moving parts renders the sector's transition a challenging task for individual organisations to manage on their own. MECLA brings together stakeholders from all parts of the ecosystem to disrupt business-as-usual. Together, government, industry and research organisations collaborate through MECLA to reduce emissions in the construction sector and move forward in lockstep and at speed. MECLA brings together all stakeholders along the supply chain to work collaboratively across different working groups. MECLA refers to itself as a 'do-tank' that actively engages in a variety of practical tasks, such as organising educational events, sharing knowledge, and involving its members in various Working Groups focused on areas like demand-side initiatives, measurement and evaluation, guidance and knowledge sharing, as well as



materials development. Additionally, other than the Secretariat, all industry participation across MECLA is voluntary.

Collaboration under the MECLA initiative has demonstrated that industry leaders are ready to act to help the government decarbonise the construction sector. Many industry actors have set ambitious science-based targets and are ahead of governments in being able to deliver on the decarbonisation pathway. Through MECLA, we have shared industry learnings and perspectives with government agencies. Achieving ambitious targets requires an

appropriate regulatory framework and government procurement practices that can help to unlock new market opportunities for lower carbon materials and collaborative contractor methods. Investment from the federal government, matched with other jurisdictions, and the private sector can help accelerate the pace of change.

Through early engagement with the industry, governments can effectively road test their policy ideas, procurement practices and methodologies. For example, after early engagement with the industry in NSW, Transport for NSW and Infrastructure NSW, released their



policy framework for climate change, establishing themselves as the leading agencies supporting the government's decarbonisation targets. MECLA hopes to undertake similar early engagement and capacity building across different state jurisdictions with a key focus on transport and infrastructure and procurement policies and practices.

Government procurement practices and National Partnership Agreements with local councils and state jurisdictions should clearly articulate their requirements and support for lower carbon building materials. MECLA's Demand Side Working Group developed the concept for a Pledge Prerequisite which has been introduced to various government agencies, whereby government contracts would require head contractors to submit a pledge outlining minimum embodied carbon targets, before they are eligible to tender for government contracts. South Australia will be the first

jurisdiction to adopt this policy from mid-2024. The NSW government now requires all new public infrastructure proposals to report on their embodied carbon emissions and analyse options for reducing embodied carbon in design and construction stages, as well as prioritising the use of low carbon and recycled or remanufactured materials. The approach aims for more ambitious policies and engagement across all jurisdictions, evolving and refining their policies by involving industries early, as done by MECLA, with the aspiration to involve member organisations in various jurisdictions.

Further investment is necessary to bolster the adoption of innovative, circular, and lower carbon materials; and by building a network of suppliers dealing in low carbon materials and supporting demand side offtakers, our goal is to accelerate uptake of these innovative materials.

MECLA aims to be a national initiative over the next year supporting ambitious approaches to reducing construction embodied carbon and harnessing opportunities for industries prepared for a decarbonised economy. To transition towards Net Zero and overcome the challenges of embodied carbon emissions, we need expertise across the supply chain working collaboratively.



ABOUT MECLA

The Materials & Embodied Carbon Leaders' Alliance (MECLA) was established in April 2021 as an initiative under the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan for low emissions building materials (LEBM). It has since evolved into an independent, membership-funded alliance of more than 160 national leaders in the built environment sector from industry, government and academia across the sector's entire supply chain. Taking a systems approach, MECLA members are determined to transform the building and construction sector to align with the Paris Agreement and the principles of a circular economy.

With the built environment sector being responsible for one-quarter of Australia's greenhouse emissions, there is an urgency around embodied carbon to reduce the carbon footprint of these materials, but it requires collaboration and leadership. By bringing different sectors together across the building and construction supply chain, we can collectively gain

a better understanding of barriers to uptake and find the solutions that will be vital to moving ahead.

The systems diagram of the construction industry on the next page is the original piece of research which sparked the seeds that germinated into MECLA and identifies the key lever points for intervention to achieve our mission and purpose.

Our mission

To accelerate reductions in embodied carbon in buildings and the construction industry

Our vision

Low embodied carbon is considered a non-negotiable measure of success – “time, cost, quality and carbon”

Our values

Collaboration, *do-tank*, pre-competitive, transparent, boldly disrupting business-as-usual.

Our goal

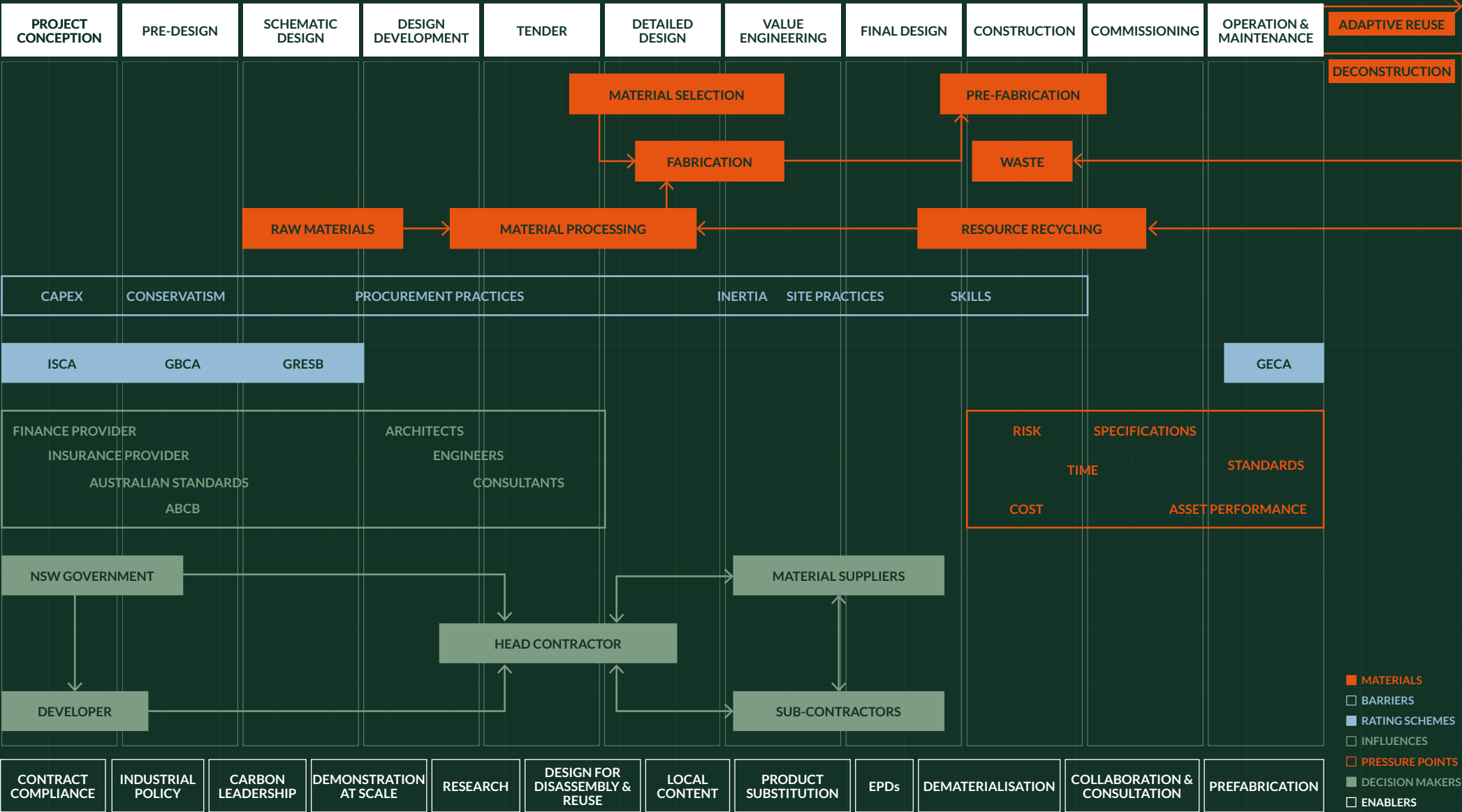
A common expectation that all tenders will address embodied carbon reductions; there is an increase in demand for low embodied carbon materials, there is an increase in embodied carbon literacy and experience across the industry

Our purpose

To build unstoppable momentum through coordinating industry and government actors to drive decarbonisation in embodied carbon

SYSTEMS DIAGRAM - DECARBONISING CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Construction project lifecycle





MECLA MEMBERS

Financial Supporters

Proudly funded by:



Founding Partners & Members



Managed by





How we work

MECLA is a collaboration of organisations coming together to drive reductions in embodied carbon in the building and construction industry. We seek to align with the Paris Agreement targets and principles of the circular

economy and recognise that the building and construction sector is a complex ecosystem.

We do this by:



Demonstrating the demand and activating the supply of materials which meet the needs of net zero carbon goals



Defining a best practice embodied carbon evaluation framework



Knowledge sharing through best practice education, case studies, myth-busting, demonstrations, and supporting innovation in materials and processes as part of a pre-competitive approach



Developing common language for design specifications, procurement guidelines and tendering criteria as standard practice for government agencies and companies



Helping to manage industry's **climate transition risks, risks associated with adopting innovative materials** and the required skills development



Supporting materials such as steel, cement and concrete, and aluminium **to reduce their carbon intensity** and giving **visibility to other low-carbon and innovative materials including engineered timber and services/systems** in the built environment



IMPACT SUMMARY 2023

MECLA has had an extraordinary 2023. We have grown to 160+ partner organisations and received funding from 80 industry organisations and two state governments. MECLA activities in working groups and subgroup meetings added in-kind contributions from industry, government and academia in the form of over 3,500 hours, not counting additional time invested in preparations for working groups, submissions, presentations, publications and spotlight events.

2023 was the year that MECLA spread its engagement and community wider and deeper than before. MECLA contributed industry feedback to the development of over 13 relevant policies at state and national level, as well as providing significant capacity and capability building for the Australian building industry through its activities. Some of our most successful examples were our

14+ spotlight events and deep dives across five states attracting over 2,500 live attendees, for which we were able to issue 726 CPD points. We also continue to expand our free website resources to further enhance knowledge sharing across the industry. Our growing recognition as a leading body on embodied carbon is also reflected in our growing online presence, with over 3,000 LinkedIn followers and newsletter subscribers, and a steadily growing number of visitors and page views.

MECLA now has 160+ Founding Partners and Members from government, industry and academia, plus around 150 additional organisations participating in its ten working groups, >15 subgroups, plus secretariat, PCG and PLG. There are currently 80 financial supporters of MECLA, including two state governments: New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia (SA).

Our work in 2023 was clustered around the following themes:

- 1. Standards, Policy and Regulation:** Continue to engage across agencies across jurisdictions to promote business cases, policies and practices that support early industry engagement and build confidence in standardising low carbon materials in tendering and contracting. Examples include development of the Industry Readiness Index.
- 2. Procurement:** Early engagement for collaborative contracting through case studies as well as development of a MECLA Guideline for procurement across each stage of the tendering and contracting process. Support Tier 2/3 contractors to upskill to facilitate their ability to respond to government expectations, in collaboration with organisations such as Engineers Australia.



- 3. Manufacturing:** While we have seen some early progress the aluminum and concrete sectors, there is much more to do to support manufacturers to retool through development of more detailed definitions and guidelines for low carbon materials and seeking early offtake agreements and support for their innovation investment efforts across the major materials sectors.
- 4. Skills, Training and Behaviour Change:** Ongoing events including Spotlight events, deep dive industry field trips and MECLA's new offering to support the industry with their problem-solving skills.
- 5. Improved Data:** Measurement and access to accurate data is key to effectively engage at the early design stages during the development and use of embodied carbon materials. Several programs have kickstarted including one with NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) because of the MECLA initiative. We will continue engaging and collaborating through these programs into 2024 and beyond.
- 6. Ongoing focus on outputs from our working groups:** MECLA has 10 working groups across the Demand Side, Measurement, Guidance, Residential and the Materials working groups including steel, concrete, aluminium, other materials e.g. glass, bricks & masonry, asphalt, piping, circular and recycled materials.

WORKING GROUPS

MECLA has 10 working groups across each of the key lever points required to achieve change and accelerate addressing embodied carbon.

WG1: Demand Signal

Send a clear demand signal for low/no embodied carbon materials.



WG2: Evaluation

Document current approaches to embodied carbon benchmarking.



WG3/4: Guidance

Enable expansion of knowledge and capabilities in the sector.



WG5: Materials

Accelerating the supply side.



WG6: Residential

Identify barriers and opportunities for decarbonisation in residential housing development.



Evaluate the (technical / funding / standards / capacity) barriers facing industry sectors and possible mechanisms and timeframes for Australian-based companies to overcome these to achieve significant emissions reduction per unit of output.

- WG5a: Steel
- WG5b: Concrete/Cement
- WG5c: Aluminium
- WG5d: Other Materials
- WG5e: Building Services
- WG5f: Engineered Timber



**Working Group 1:
Procurement & Demand-Side**

Chair: **Ann Austin**
Head of Sustainability
Lendlease

**Subgroup
Chairs:** **David Ritter**
Sustainability Lead - Australia and
New Zealand
Grimshaw Architects

Yanni Papadopoulos
Sustainability Director -
Sustainable Operations
JLL

Karinne Taylor
Manager Environmental Projects
City of Sydney

Ann Austin
Head of Sustainability
Lendlease

Working Group 1 (WG1) has been meeting monthly since its establishment in April 2021. Their overall objective is to send a clear, consistent and significantly increased demand signal for low/no embodied carbon materials so that suppliers are confident to invest in decarbonisation innovation. The WG now has three sub-groups that meet monthly with the full WG1 meeting now every quarter. Other sub-groups including Toolkit and Measure & Disclose were wound up during the year with their work passed onto other WGs.

Pledge Pre-Requisite

This sub-group is advocating for a ‘Pledge’ policy to be included as a pre-requisite for Government work. The ‘Pledge’ would require head contractors to set and monitor a publicly available target to reduce embodied carbon in building materials. The sub-group has been advocating for this type of consistent, yet flexible expectation around embodied

carbon reduction targets to various Government agencies in all states over the past 18 months.

This year, the South Australian government adopted this into its revised Sustainable Procurement Policy the government’s infrastructure and transport programs to come into practice from 1 July 2024. The policy requires all contractors bidding on infrastructure and transport work over \$50 million to have organisational emission reduction targets that address emission from their own fuel and electricity use as well as in their supply chain.

Show me how to deviate

This subgroup focused on deviating from standard specifications and the work was featured at the MECLA **Spotlight event on Myth Busting** on 18 May 2023. A report outlining potential standard pathways for deviation was prepared for Investment-NSW and will hopefully be published in 2024. The report will



enable developers and designers to deviate from material specifications (including identifying key stakeholders and setting out ways to map the approval process for contractors or designers to propose alternate, low embodied carbon materials that deviate from client specifications). This sub-group continues find ways to engage and intervene.

Local Councils

This sub-group will support council officers to investigate measurement and reduction of embodied carbon in their councils' capital works programs including civil and linear infrastructure (i.e. roads, parks, civil infrastructure). The first **Spotlight on Local Councils** event was held on 5 December.

Readiness Index

The subgroup will establish industry-supported research to assess the readiness of suppliers and head contractors to deliver low embodied carbon outcomes. An ability to demonstrate readiness will provide

governments with the confidence to be more ambitious in their procurement asks and expectations. The subgroup is currently in conversations with different state government agencies to run a pilot project in early 2024.





Working Group 2: Measurement and Disclosure

- Chairs:**
- Caroline Noller**
Founder & CEO
The Footprint Company
 - Lucy Marsland**
Environmental Manager
Atelier 1
- Subgroup Chairs:**
- Brendan Liveris**
National Sustainability Manager
Hanson Australia
 - Lachlan Ramsey**
Principal Structural Engineer
AECOM
 - Mel Rohan**
Senior Public Affairs Officer
(Aust)
RICS

Working Group 2 (WG2) objectives are to document and provide feedback on current best practice approaches to embodied carbon benchmarking, tools, and calculators.

After releasing a discussion paper **“Upfront Carbon in the Built Environment”** in October 2022, WG2 held their first **Spotlight event on Measuring Embodied Carbon** on 23 February 2023. The Spotlight covered issues from the discussion paper as well as recent work completed by the Green Building Council of Australia and the NABERS team and their discussion papers on measurement.

Subsequently this WG provided input into the NABERS consultation process that occurred during the year. NABERS

will continue its work to launch its pilot tools which we understand will be ready for use by mid 2024.

In 2023, three subgroups were created focusing on Materials, Buildings and Infrastructure, providing input into Working Group 3&4’s Action Guide and continuing to input into the NABERS tool development process. The Working Group was also providing technical input and feedback into several state and federal policy consultations and will continue to further their engagement with industry and government in this space in 2024. Reconfiguration of this Working Group is underway as we decide how best to provide this input.



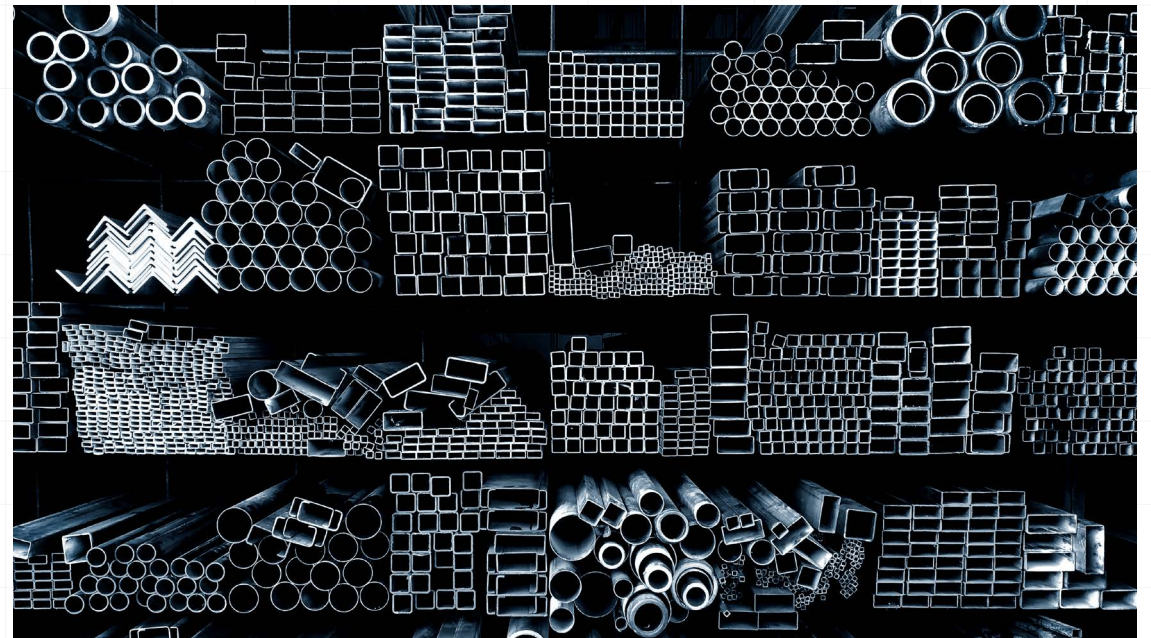
Working Group 3/4: Guidance

Chairs: **Haley Jarick**
CEO
Supply Chain Sustainability School

Jeremy Mansfield
Director
Mansfield Advisory Pty Ltd

Working Group 3/4 (WG3/4) has shifted its focus this year to deepening expectations around addressing embodied carbon through an Action Guide which will be completed by Q2 2024. Prior to this action guide this WG delivered a [Dictionary of Carbon](#) and a number of [case studies](#).

The Action Guide will support all actors at different stages of the procurement process on how to start engaging with and specifying expectations on reducing embodied carbon and lower carbon materials.





**Working Group 5a:
Steel**

Chairs: **Haley Jarick**
CEO
Supply Chain Sustainability School

Joe Karten
Head of Sustainability and Social
Impact
Built

The Materials Working Group 5 (WG5) on steel is dedicated to accelerating emissions reductions in steel through knowledge sharing on the complexities of manufacturing low carbon steel.

At the beginning of the year, MECLA members were treated to a Deep Dive visiting BlueScope’s Port Kembla Steelworks. The WG developed series of one-pagers on on steel decarbonisation and broader sustainability issues in the steel value chain as follows:

- [Responsible Steel Snapshot](#)
- [Carbon from Steelmaking Snapshot](#)
- [CCU/CCS in Steel Snapshot](#)

- [Product Stewardship in Steel Snapshot](#)
- [Hydrogen in Steelmaking Snapshot](#)
- [Low Embodied Carbon Steel Snapshot](#)
- [Steel Sustainability Australia Snapshot](#)

WG5a is looking at more ambitious plans for 2024 as it builds its understanding of the opportunities to source and manufacture lower carbon steel.

Working Group 5b: Concrete and Cement

Chairs: **Ali Kashani**
Senior Lecturer
UNSW

Evan Smith
National Sustainability Manager
Holcim

Subgroup Chair: **Niki Jackson**
Director
Sustainable Future by Design

The Materials Working Group 5b (WG5b) on Concrete & Cement is focused on knowledge sharing of different pathways for sourcing lower carbon concrete and cement. A sub-group was formed a few months ago to develop a guide for low carbon concrete in Australia which should be ready for publication early in 2024.

The Spotlight on Myth busting had a range of case studies on common myths around low embodied carbon concrete and cement, including cost, time and performance.





Working Group 5c: Aluminium

Chair: **Jeff Morgan**
Principal
Hassell

The Materials Working Group 5c (WG5c) on Aluminium focuses on better engagement with industry on how to procure low carbon aluminium engaging both the demand and supply sides. In 2023, the WG undertook a **Deep Dive** series into the aluminium facade industry, engaging façade contractors, head contractor, consultants, developers and owners. As a result the WG published a **Low Carbon Aluminium Specifications Guide** and a **Top 5 Learning brochure**,

highlighting the key learnings from their engagement with the aluminium supply chain. This year, one of our MECLA members, Capral, Australia's largest aluminium extruder, launched their LocAl[®] product onto the Australian market, offering a locally extruded, lower-carbon aluminium for projects in construction, engineering, marine, transport, defence, renewable energy or general fabrication industries.

Working Group 5d: Construction Materials & Assemblies

Chairs: **Cathy Inglis**
CEO
Think Brick Australia

Josephine Vaughan
Lecturer
University of Newcastle

WG5d is a representative network of construction materials suppliers including masonry and bricks, asphalt and bitumen, glass and piping, composite materials and others. They are working on the development of roadmaps for individual materials providing a deep dive into the key areas impacting on embodied carbon

(including measures, benchmarking, barriers, strategies, circular economy and beyond).

For purposes of clearer definition, WG5d will be renamed to Construction Materials & Assemblies in 2024.



Working Group 5e: Building services

Chairs: **Jeff Robinson**
Global Sustainable Design
Expertise Leader
Aurecon

Mark Vender
Advocacy and Policy Manager
AIRAH

The Materials Working Group 5e (WG5e) on Building Services focuses on systems such as HVAC, refrigeration, fire safety, escalators, lifts and lighting, which play an important role in reducing emissions

in a building. WG5e consists of experts in this industry, collaborating on capacity building in the sector through education, benchmarking and demonstrating demand.

Working Group 5f: Engineered timber

Chairs: **Stephen Simpson**
Design Director
Mulpha

Hamid Valipur
Professor
UNSW

Subgroup Chair: **Alastair Woodard**
Director
TPC Solutions (Aust) Pty Ltd

The Materials Working Group 5f (WG5f) on Engineered Timber was set up in late 2022 and is dedicated to mapping pathways for further uptake of sustainably sourced engineered timber in the construction industry. This includes addressing challenges

around insurance and financing, regulations and politics, and technical. The working group is currently split into three subgroups: insurance and regulatory, supply chain, and financial & logistics. They held a **Spotlight event** in November.



Working Group 6: Residential

Chairs: **Julia Halioua**
Senior Sustainability Advisor
The Footprint Company

Karla Fox-Reynolds
Sustainable Design Leader
Hassell

Subgroup Chairs: **Ishan Jain**
Sustainability Advisor, Australian
Steel Markets
BlueScope

Jeff Oatman
Head of Collaboration and
Membership
Green Building Council of
Australia

Dyan Johnson
Manager – Policy and Economics
Master Builders Queensland

Tom Petty
Co-Founder
CarbonTrace

Working Group 6 (WG6) – Residential is focused on accelerating the transition to a low carbon residential building sector, focusing on a series of levers of change, including government procurement, listed entities such as REITs and superfunds which are bound by the emerging ESG reporting standards, and the higher end of custom residential market where clients and purchasers are looking to invest in lower carbon options.

They have established three subgroups to address these levers, including on Leadership, Measurement & Collaboration (identifying and celebrating best practices and advocacy), Market Demand (understanding stakeholders, processes and barriers; increasing awareness and engagement in the supply chain) and Builders (understanding barriers, increasing awareness and engagement from builders and trade).





POLICY INPUT & ENGAGEMENT

Through its diverse industry network, MECLA can provide the required environment for governments and industry associations who seek input into their policy development, road-test draft roadmaps and policies and test industry readiness.

MECLA engagement takes several forms:

1. Direct engagement and feedback rounds into government policies and roadmaps, for example, working group meetings, public events and roundtables
2. Written submissions on industry consultations, policy and roadmap drafts
3. Participation of MECLA members in government and association advisory panels, government events and others
4. Participation of government and advisory members in MECLA working groups

Various agencies have sought input from MECLA this year. These include the following:

- NABERS Embodied Carbon Discussion Paper and Briefing
- Input into APCC Pathway to Green Construction Procurement – Targeted Consultation Phase
- Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy (ESPP) for DCCEEW
- South Australia’s Department of Infrastructure and Transport – Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Assistance and technical input to Infrastructure Partnerships Australia and Infrastructure bodies at state and federal level, such as:
 - Infrastructure Australia – Decarbonising construction: Putting carbon in the business case
 - Infrastructure NSW & NSW Environment Protection Authority - Protection of Environment Policy (PEP)
 - Infrastructure NSW - Decarbonising Infrastructure Delivery Policy
 - Infrastructure NSW - Embodied Carbon Measurement Guidance
 - Reducing Government Infrastructure Emissions Roadmap (Queensland Government)
 - OCEE Feedback on Concrete Specifications
 - Industry Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (IDD) – an initiative of the clean energy ministerial from the Glasgow COP
 - Ongoing Participation in MECLA – Representatives of state government departments and relevant industry associations are members of the MECLA Project Control Group, including TfNSW, GBCA, ISC and Standards Australia

We have had ongoing engagement across all levels of government across many jurisdictions. This includes input into multiple submissions.

Federal government

The Federal government’s commitment to meeting the Paris Agreement Targets and its ambitions associated with creating a circular Australia by 2030 aligns with MECLA’s purpose. Equally significant is the aim to generate new job opportunities

within a transitioning, decarbonising economy, fostering innovation and progress for the nation.

There has been ongoing engagement with various Federal government agencies including:

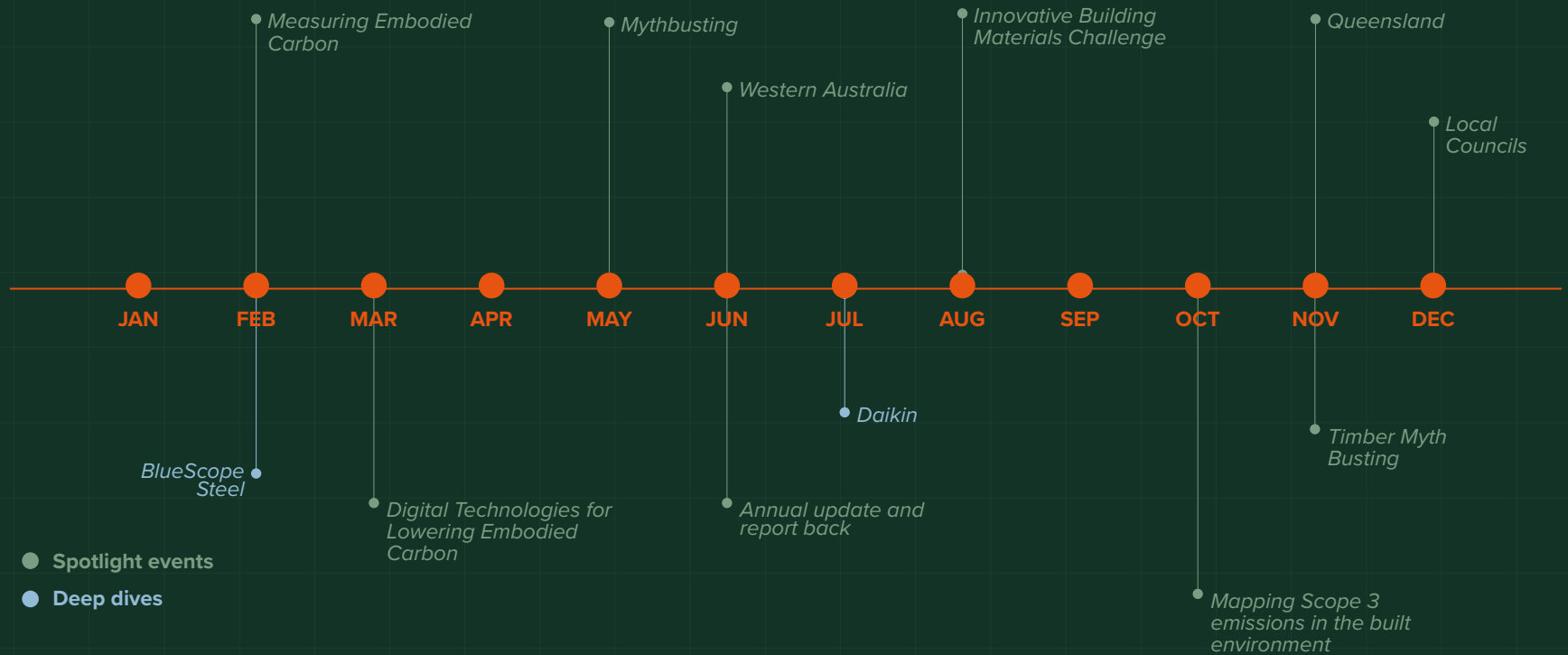
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Department of Industry, Science & Resources
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
- Australasian Procurement and Construction Council
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Clean Energy Finance Corporation
- ITSOC – Infrastructure, Transport Senior Officials Committee





EVENTS

MECLA members participated in 10 Spotlight events over 2023 with more planned for next year. We also hosted two Deep Dives, to BlueScope Steel and Daikin.



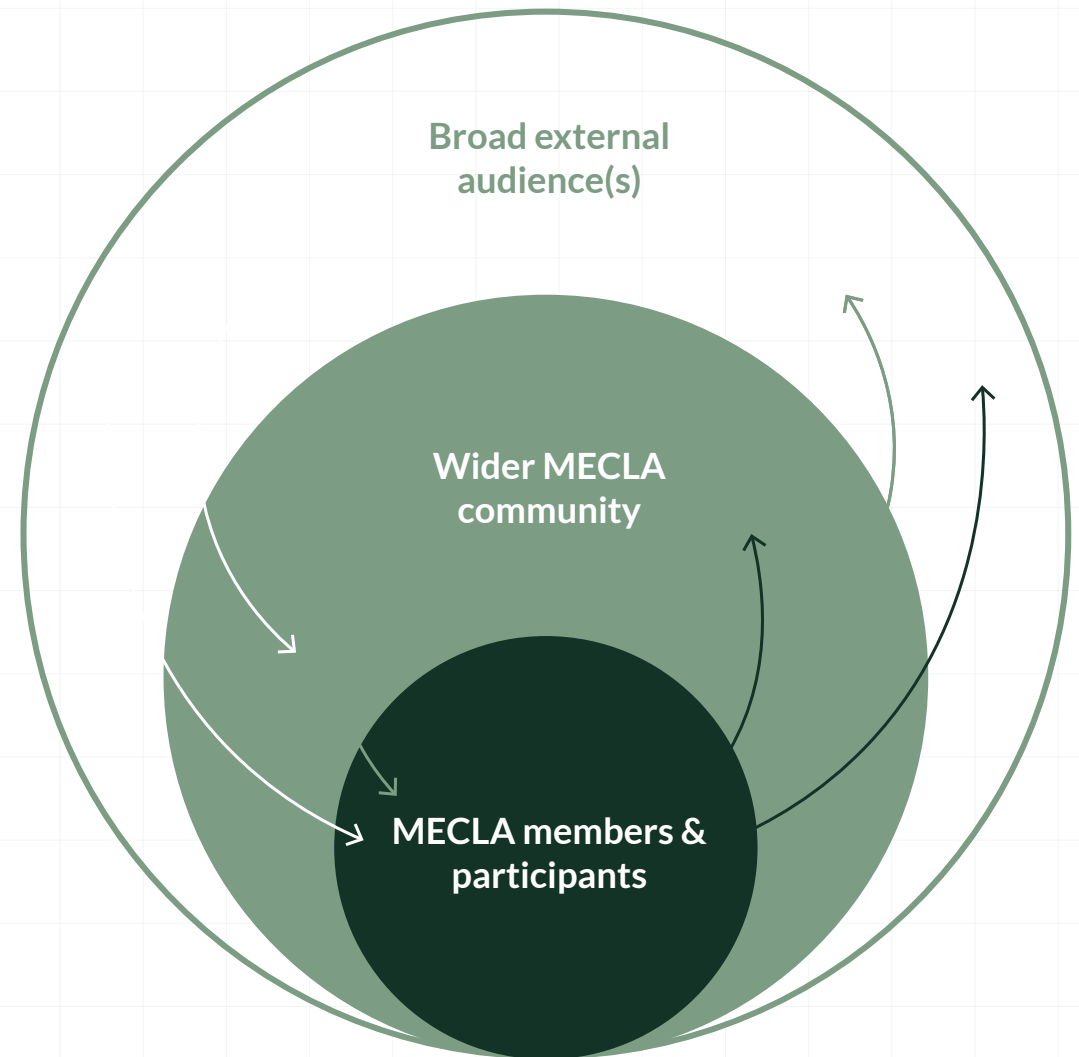
KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT & SHARING

Knowledge sharing and capability development is a key lever identified by MECLA for addressing embodied carbon in the built environment. As such,

As MECLA emerges as the go-to entity in the embodied carbon discussion in Australia, our knowledge products are reaching ever-growing audiences, and we can observe the conversation around embodied carbon in the sector maturing.

Knowledge is generated and shared by MECLA in three main ways:

1. Between MECLA members;
2. From MECLA to the broader Australian built environment embodied carbon ecosystem;
3. From MECLA to the wider community, in Australia and abroad, with interest in embodied carbon futures and/or MECLA's model of collaboration.





MECLA members and participants

MECLA's members and participants embody the richest and deepest concentration of knowledge – both theoretical and practical – about embodied carbon across the entire built environment value chain in Australia.

MECLA's membership cohort comprises approximately 250 participating organisations and departments, 10 working groups and over 15 sub-groups. In 2023, over

1,000 participants from this cohort participated in over 60 working group meetings.

Working group discussions are highly output and outcome-oriented and focussed on the objectives set by each working group. Participants of all nine working groups benefit from the knowledge sharing and capability building that eventuates from these meetings.

Materials embodied carbon ecosystem

MECLA's outputs and activities centre around the production of resources and knowledge sharing events to educate and align industries around embodied carbon best practices, emerging insights, and market opportunities.

These include MECLA Spotlight events, workshops and presentations advertised and delivered through MECLA's channels, as well as other

outputs and resources published on the MECLA website, including working group outputs such as case studies and publications.

Participants can receive accreditation in the form of CPD (continued professional development) points for attendance of Spotlight events from numerous MECLA partner organisations, such as GBCA, Engineers Australia, RICS.



Broader networks

The growing recognition of MECLA as a leading body on embodied carbon is reflected in our growing online presence, with over 3,000 LinkedIn followers and newsletter subscribers, and a steadily growing number of visitors and page views.

As a consequence of this influence, MECLA is increasingly being invited to share MECLA learnings and knowledge with government, industry and research bodies outside of the MECLA community; extending beyond national borders, and beyond the boundaries of the construction industry.

Activities in this tier include government and industry briefings, participation of MECLA secretariat and partner organisations in external industry, government and university events, as well as other formal and informal engagement.

These events provide a platform to bring together and introduce individuals and organisations whose decarbonisation ambitions go beyond the physical possibilities and remit of MECLA, who can extend our impact or replicate our model in different value chains or jurisdictions.



GOVERNANCE

As a network governance model, MECLA is governed by its Project Control Group (PCG) and Project Leadership Group (PLG). The PCG is made up of the chairs of the different working groups and other invited persons.

PCG members

Hudson Worsley (Secretariat)

Presync

Monica Richter (Secretariat)

WWF Australia

Kathy Verheyen (Secretariat)

Climate-KIC Australia

Alexi Barnstone (Secretariat)

Climate-KIC Australia

Ann Austin (WP1)

Lendlease

Caroline Noller (WP2)

The Footprint Company

Lucy Marsland (WG2)

Atelier Ten

Haley Jarick (WG3/4)

Supply Chain Sustainability School

Jeremy Mansfield (WG3/4)

Mansfield Advisory Pty Ltd

Hayley Jarick (WG5a)

Supply Chain Sustainability School

Joe Karten (WG5a)

Built

Ali Kashani (WG5b)

UNSW

Evan Smith (WG5b)

Holcim

Jeff Morgan (WG5c)

Hassell

Cathy Inglis (WG5d)

Think Brick Australia

Josephine Vaughn (WG5d)

University of Newcastle

Jeff Robinson (WG5e)

Aurecon

Mark Vender (WG5e)

AIRAH



Hamid Vali Pour Goudarzi (WG5f)
UNSW

Stephen Simpson (WG5f)
Mulpha Australia Ltd

Karla Fox-Reynolds (WG6)
Hassell

Julia Halioua (WG6)
The Footprint Company

Alberto Jimenez
NSW Government

David Kelly
Transport for NSW

Christophe Barriere-Varju
BvW Global Pty Ltd

Patrick Hastings
Infrastructure Sustainability Council

Mike Kilburn
Infrastructure Sustainability Council

Jeff Oatman
Green Building Council of Australia

Simon Currie
Energy Estate

Henrietta Tan
Standards Australia

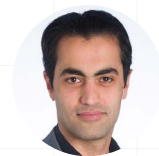
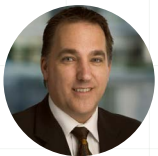
Levi Robinson
Standards Australia

David Warren
Dual Basis

Ross Donaldson
EPM Experimental

Philippa Stone
BlueScope

Rick Walters
Aware Super





Secretariat

The Secretariat is made up of Hudson Worsley, MECLA Chair, Monica Richter Project Director, and Senior Manager, Low Carbon Futures, WWF-Australia, Senior Project Manager, Kathy Verheyen, Project Manager, Alexi Barnstone.



Hudson Worsley
Chair



Monica Richter
Project Director



Kathy Verheyen
Senior Project Manager



Alexi Barnstone
Project Manager





FINANCIALS

MECLA activities in 2023 have been funded through commitments by two state governments, as well as industry contributions and philanthropic funding. Government contributions weren't made for specific years or financial years but rather tied to the achievement of certain milestones and/or the duration of the MECLA project.

MECLA activities in working groups and subgroup meetings added in-kind contributions from industry, government and academia in the form of over 3,500 hours, not counting additional time invested in preparations for working groups, submissions, presentations, publications and spotlight events.

Financial contributions cover the cost of the secretariat, as well as travel cost, event costs, as well as other costs related project delivery.

Financial year	Government commitments	Industry commitments	WWF contribution	Other commitments
2021/22	\$150,000 (NSW)	\$164,500	\$105,000	\$50,000 (philanthropic funding)
2022/23	\$159,000 (NSW) \$50,000 (SA)	\$231,650	\$105,000	\$7,774.74 (donation)
2023/24	\$100,000 (NSW)	\$67,000	\$105,000	\$50,000 (philanthropic funding)
Total	\$459,000	\$463,150	\$315,000	\$107,774.74

MECLA Secretariat personnel:

- Chair: 2 days/week
- Director: 3 days/week
- Senior Project Manager: 3 days/week
- Project Manager: 3 days/week

Travel:

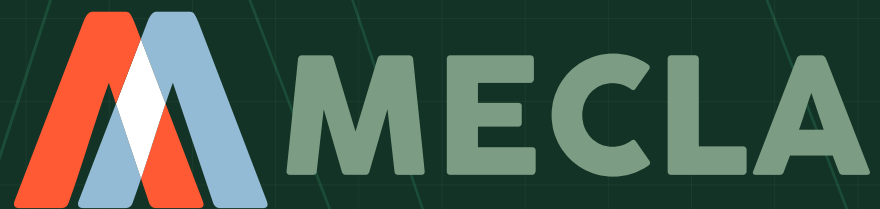
- Travel, accommodation and catering for attendance at in-person events

Events:

- Catering for in-person events
- Printing

Other:

- Software subscriptions
- Web hosting and domains
- Security updates and IT support for project software



mecla.org.au