

## SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

### Vision

To be recognised as a leader in sustainable practices.

### MISSION

To minimise the environmental impact of Brisbane Powerhouse operations

Achieving true sustainability is a goal that many individuals, organisations and countries are grappling with. The Brisbane Powerhouse has an ambitious goal to become the leading sustainable performance arts centre of Australia. In setting such a goal we recognise that it won't happen overnight that it is more a journey with some things easier to do than others.

Critical to achieving true sustainability are people - our staff, our performers and our patrons. Over the next few years we aim to work more closely with all of our stakeholders to ensure that our journey of becoming truly sustainable is enacted. Initially we have conducted audits to establish what the baseline footprint for the Brisbane Powerhouse might be. This allows us to track the effectiveness of any changes that we make and share these wins with others grappling with the same issue.

#### **PETA ASHWORTH, BOARD MEMBER AND CSIRO SOCIAL SCIENTIST**

Peta Ashworth is leading our sustainable practice. She is a Senior Social researcher at CSIRO who is currently completing a PhD at the University of Queensland. The topic of her PhD is *Community Engagement - Understanding and Incorporating Processes of Engagement with Organisational and Public Stakeholders on Climate Change and Low Emission Technologies*. Peta's main responsibility is to manage a team of social scientists researching public perceptions to a range of issues of national strategic importance on behalf of CSIRO's Flagship research programs.

Peta's research is based on the implementation of a variety of social processes to integrate science and technology more successfully into society. It includes conducting research to understand and incorporate key stakeholder perspectives into the technology and policy domains. For the past five years Peta has been researching public attitudes to climate change and energy technologies and she has an excellent understanding of the latest research and innovation for climate change mitigation. Peta is currently writing the "low carbon guide to living" on behalf of CSIRO as a way to inform Australians on how best to reduce their carbon foot print.

Peta is one of the lead researchers in an international research group called Carbon Capture and Storage Social Research Network (C2S2RN). Internationally, there are only a small number of social researchers working on understanding public perceptions to carbon capture and storage and C2S2RN has worked to establish international research projects across institutions. Peta is Australia's representative on Public Awareness and Communication of CCS as part of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum and has attended a number of international meetings as part of the Australian delegation working to progress this issue.

#### **BRISBANE POWERHOUSE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES -**

1. Audit and monitor our energy, water and waste use within the building;
2. Educate staff and patrons in sustainable practices;
3. Encourage and enable more sustainable transport behaviours;
4. Seek partners for innovative, environmentally friendly initiatives;

## 1. ELECTRICITY, WATER AND WASTE

### Electricity

- Audit general electricity consumption at Brisbane Powerhouse establish an understanding of the broader usage of the site
  - Investigate introduction of power metering within discreet venue, tenancy and event spaces. This measure may provide insights and motivators for improved electricity conservation.
- Audit main sources of electricity use within a performance venue - *Lighting and HVAC*
  - *Lighting*
    - *General Venue and Site Lighting*. - These are elements both internal and external that provide general lighting to the building and precinct. Alterations to these elements may allow reduction in carbon footprint within the short and long term without major impact upon Brisbane Powerhouse core operation.
    - *Theatrical Lighting* - These elements provide theatrical effect lighting to Brisbane Powerhouse event and Theatre spaces. Alterations to these elements are considerably more difficult due to the intensity and temperature specifications required for theatrical performances. However Brisbane Powerhouse will investigate any improvements that can be made to electricity usage and factor these requirements into future capital purchases.
  - *HVAC (high volume air conditioning)*
    - Evaluate HVAC usage through current practices and control systems. Brisbane Powerhouse in conjunction with Brisbane City Council will investigate improved HVAC management control systems and study alternative building cooling systems to inform future BCC capital expenditure.

### Water

- Audit current water usage to establish an understanding of the broader water usage of the site
  - Investigate introduction of further water usage monitoring within discreet venue and tenancy spaces.
  - Identify opportunities for further improvement of water usage through low flow reduction techniques along with the possibility of recycled waste water
  - Investigate further water capture techniques for Brisbane Powerhouse precinct

### Waste

- Audit current volume and mix of waste generated by site to establish an understanding of current waste generation levels
  - At completion of audit introduce improved waste management strategies for reduction, segregation and recycling these strategies may included -
    - Improved waste bin and segregation within the venue and around site
    - Improved waste management strategy with tenants
    - Investigate waste guidelines for Brisbane Powerhouse, Tenants', hirers and suppliers – e.g. packaging and disposable product limitations

## 2. TRANSPORT

### Public Transport

- Investigate options for improving public transport service to Brisbane Powerhouse and reduced barriers to current and future use.
  - Work with our stakeholders for improving public transport infrastructure to site by investigating possibilities for
    - Bus stop closer to venue at end of Lamington Street New Farm
    - Improved lighting from New Farm Park Ferry stop to Brisbane Powerhouse
    - Improved lighting within New Farm from Brunswick Street bus stop
  - Encourage increased use of public transport
    - Improved integration between Brisbane Powerhouse website and public transport website
    - Investigate incentives for public transport usage

### Car Pooling

- Improve Brisbane Powerhouses' ability to encourage car pooling amongst patrons and staff
  - Investigate car pooling coordination through staff practices and web based tool for patrons – “car pooling date service” or incentives

### Bicycling

- Investigate options for encouraging increased use of bike transport to Brisbane Powerhouse
  - Improved signage and accessibility to public bike racks
  - Investigate participation in Brisbane City Council public bike hire scheme with location of unit on Brisbane Powerhouse site.

## 3. PEOPLE – Behaviour and Culture

Brisbane Powerhouse staff are committed to our sustainability goal and already illustrate many environmentally friendly behaviours. However, there is always room for improvement. Through a process of education and action, our team is working to move the workplace to a greener, cleaner and environmentally friendly place.

Following workshops each staff member has championed an action to improve our carbon footprint. Progress is followed up quarterly.

## 4. PARTNERS

Brisbane Powerhouse is seeking partners to help us achieve our environmental goals. Partners could be Federal, State or Local government agencies, philanthropic bodies or sponsors who have a strong environmental focus.