

# Sustainability - built-in



In the construction industry, waste disposal is a significant concern, with tons of materials ending up in landfills each year. However, there is a growing movement towards sustainability, with companies embracing innovative practices and materials to reduce environmental impact.

The construction industry plays a vital role in shaping our built environment, but it also has a significant impact on the environment. As an estimator, I have seen firsthand the amount of waste generated during construction projects. For a 220m<sup>2</sup> lowset house, I would typically order 4 x 4m<sup>3</sup> skip bins, resulting in 16m<sup>3</sup> of waste going straight to the landfill. It's time for us to do better.

**Recycling and Waste Management:** While some companies have made strides in recycling construction waste, there is still room for improvement. By implementing better waste management practices, such as segregating materials on-site and partnering with recycling facilities, we can significantly reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills.

**Sustainable Materials:** To build a greener future, we need to embrace sustainable materials in construction. Wood, a renewable resource, can replace traditional materials like concrete and steel in certain applications. Recycled metals, mud bricks, green thermal insulation, bamboo, and straw bales are other sustainable alternatives that offer excellent thermal properties and reduce carbon emissions.



Amanda Bulow

**Environmental Impact and Significance:** The construction industry accounts for a significant portion of global energy consumption and carbon emissions. By adopting sustainable practices and materials, we can reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to mitigating climate change. Sustainable construction not only benefits the environment but also improves indoor air quality and occupant health.

**Practical Applications:** Architects, engineers, and contractors can collaborate to incorporate sustainable materials and design principles into their projects. Governments can provide incentives and regulations that promote sustainable construction practices. Homeowners can choose sustainable materials when renovating or building their homes, contributing to a greener future.

The construction industry has the power to shape a more sustainable future. By reducing waste, embracing sustainable materials, and implementing eco-friendly practices, we can minimise our environmental impact and create buildings that are not only beautiful but also environmentally responsible. It's time for the construction industry to step up and build a greener future for generations to come.

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## New children's art gallery could be an Ippy winner

Ipswich City Council has endorsed a proposal to develop Australia's first standalone Children's Art Gallery as part of CBD revitalisation plans.

Council agreed to seek funding for a dedicated Children's Art Gallery as part of the redeveloped Nicholas Street Precinct last Thursday.

Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding said council was eager to build on the overwhelming success of its Ipswich Children's Library, catering for the city's young, growing population.

"We saw an opportunity to build Australia's first standalone children's library and it has become a huge hit," Mayor Harding said.

"A new children's art gallery would continue the evolution of our new CBD as a place our families will want to meet," she said.

"The next step will be seeking the financial support of our government partners as well as philanthropic and commercial investment."

Ipswich Central Redevelopment Committee Chairperson Councillor Marnie Doyle said other works to reinvigorate Ipswich's cultural heart were already in motion.

"Significant work is already underway to enhance the capacity of Ipswich Central cultural assets such as the Nicholas Street Precinct and the Ipswich Civic Centre and to improve connectivity between these assets, Top of Town and the wider CBD," Cr Doyle said.

A council report highlighted that the option to relocate current children's programming into a dedicated children's art gallery has the potential to increase attendance by a net total 95,000 visits per annum.



Mayor Teresa Harding (right) and Cr Marnie Doyle (left) with a concept image of the proposed children's art gallery. Picture: ICC