



29 August 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **World First for Australian Convention Centres**

Australia reaffirms its global sustainability leadership in the business events space with the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) and Adelaide Convention Centre (ACC) becoming the first venues in the world to achieve the coveted EarthCheck Platinum Certification.

EarthCheck's Platinum Certification recognises 10 consecutive years of best practice in sustainability. Both ACC and GCCEC have demonstrated strong leadership and innovation, consistently performing at above best practice in several key areas of social and environmental actions.

EarthCheck CEO and Founder Stewart Moore noted that achieving EarthCheck Certification is no easy feat as it requires total dedication from the entire team to achieve improved results each year.

"I congratulate the teams at the Adelaide Convention Centre and the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on their outstanding achievements in attaining EarthCheck Platinum Certification. To achieve this high level of certification not only speaks to their individual and enduring commitment to sustainable practices, but also highlights Australia's sustainability leadership on the global stage," Mr Moore said.

"As Australia's leading convention centres, they have consistently demonstrated a commitment to adopt responsible environmental practices, improve operational efficiencies and inspire a number of initiatives in their communities. Both Gold Coast and Adelaide Convention Centres 'walk the talk' when it comes to sustainability and they continue to play a vital role in conservation and community initiatives."

### **Tackling the Challenge of Reducing Emissions**

The GCCEC has tackled the challenge of creating an environmentally sustainable business model with a robust energy-saving program. At the core is a Building Management System that reduces energy consumption by up to 50% in off-peak periods. Other initiatives include



the replacement of more than 350 high bay lights with LED lights and as a result, GCCEC's focus on energy has resulted in emission savings equivalent to taking 515 cars off the road.

The GCCEC is also passionate about minimising food waste and works closely with OzHarvest, the national food rescue organisation. Since 2014, more than 4,800kg of food has actively been donated to needy members of the Gold Coast community. Additionally, the GCCEC works with food suppliers to change the packaging of goods to more sustainably friendly or recyclable options. These initiatives, among many others, have saved enough waste going to landfill to fill 76 shipping containers or 21,030 wheelie bins over 10 years.

"We are thrilled to have earned Platinum Certification from EarthCheck," comments Adrienne Readings, General Manager, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

"At GCCEC we work extremely hard on our waste, water and energy-saving initiatives to reduce our impact on the environment and give back to the community. We believe that sustainability is something that should be a natural part of our daily actions because what we do today will benefit the delegate of tomorrow. It's an honour to be recognised by the world's leading scientific benchmarking, certification and advisory group for travel and tourism. Congratulations to the Adelaide Convention Centre on reaching this milestone with us."

View further information on the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre's sustainability initiatives, [here](#).

### **Fighting the War on Waste**

Food rescue and recycling is a major focus at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Since mid-2007, the venue has virtually eliminated organic waste to landfill via a comprehensive food redistribution program. To date, the ACC has provided more than 160,000 unused meals to OzHarvest and Foodbank. The ACC's efforts in this area not only help feed the hungry, but also divert food waste from landfill, helping to save greenhouse gas emissions and water usage. Over the past decade, the ACC's greenhouse gas emission savings have been equivalent to taking 913 cars off the road, while the venue has saved more than 15 million litres of water, enough water to fill six Olympic sized swimming pools. When it comes to processing organic waste, the ACC also has its own worm farm (launched in 2009), which serves perfectly for composting gardens surrounding the Centre along with supporting local community garden schemes.



Among other initiatives, the ACC has been actively fighting the war on plastic for more than five years, using fully biodegradable and compostable cups and lids for hot and cold beverages, with dedicated 'bio-bins' in place across its property to ensure their responsible disposal and keep out of landfill. More recently, the ACC joined other venues across Australia to become plastic straw free. The ACC also enforces a strict "local" food policy, with 97 percent of produce used sourced from local, sustainable environments. This commitment not only provides visiting delegates with a 'taste of South Australia' and helps support local business, but reduces the food miles of the Centre.

"South Australia is widely respected as an innovative, clean, green destination, which is a natural fit with EarthCheck's positive and proactive approach to sustainability," comments Simon Burgess, General Manager, Adelaide Convention Centre.

"Over the years we've been fortunate to play host to a number of key environmental events and have received lots of attention for our sustainability initiatives, from our worm farm to tree-planting and sustainable buildings and construction. It's particularly thrilling to achieve EarthCheck Platinum Certification at a time when sustainability and the 'war on waste' is such a topical conversation. Together with the GCCEC, we're proud to lead the way when it comes to sustainability in the business events industry, and to do our part in actively promoting environmental awareness and sustainability to not only delegates visiting our venues, but the wider community".

View further information on the Adelaide Convention Centre's sustainability initiatives, [here](#).

### **About EarthCheck**

Since 1987, EarthCheck has helped businesses, communities and governments to coordinate a more strategic approach to sustainable tourism and destination management by delivering clean, safe, prosperous and healthy destinations for travellers to visit, live, work and play. Most importantly everything that EarthCheck undertakes is underpinned by evidence based scientific data and performance based metrics.

### **About the Adelaide Convention Centre**

Set at the heart of Adelaide's Riverbank precinct, the Adelaide Convention Centre opened as Australia's first convention centre in 1987. In 2017, the venue celebrated its 30th year in business with a \$397M redevelopment, which rendered the property one of the world's most modern, flexible and technologically advanced convention centres. Home to three distinct yet



seamlessly integrated buildings spanning 20,000sqm of multi-purpose event space, the ACC is known for its creative dining, latest event technologies and innovative sustainability programs; in August 2018, the ACC was ranked one of only two convention centres in the world to hold Platinum Certification in the globally recognised EarthCheck program. Over the past 30 years, Adelaide Convention Centre has played host to over 1800 major conferences, welcomed more than six million delegates and guests, and delivered in excess of \$1.4 billion in economic benefit to South Australia. The venue is forecast to inject an additional \$1.92 billion into the South Australian economy over the next 25 years. More:

<http://www.adelaidecc.com.au>.

### **About the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre**

The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre specialises in personalised and bespoke events in a world-class boutique venue just a block from the best beaches in Australia. With cutting-edge technology, audio visual, culinary and event management expertise, the Centre is centrally located in the heart of the Gold Coast dining, entertainment and accommodation precinct of Broadbeach. The Centre's flexibility allows catering for 10 to 6,000 guests.

Featuring a 6,000 seat arena, 4 exhibition halls, 22 meeting rooms and 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of ground floor exhibition space, this modern facility boasts the latest in infrastructure, free Wi-Fi and now with internationally recognised sustainable credentials in the form of EarthCheck Platinum – a first for convention centres worldwide. GCCEC offers an enticing mix of holiday opportunities and leading-edge convention facilities that contributed more than \$2.64 billion to the Queensland economy in the past 10 years. More: [www.gccec.com.au](http://www.gccec.com.au).

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**GCCEC Green Team Celebrating Platinum**



**Adelaide Convention Centre**

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