NP2000: CURTIN UNIVERSITY NODE OF EXCELLENCE: REGENERATIVE CITIES AND REGIONS.

INNOVATING IN AN INNOVATIVE CITY

Research Question

How to do low carbon innovation in an innovative city. Using student accommodation as a case study

Figure 1: Artists impression - Curtin in 2030

Methodology (75 words)

What research methods are you using? How will they answer your research question? Is the research still in progress, or is it complete?

This research is just beginning. I am in the process of submitting my application for candidacy. My methods will embrace case study research (looking at student accommodation; 800 – 1500 units are to be procured in 2015/16); I will also utilise heuristic enquiry (which utilises the insights and experiences of the researcher extensively) and interpretive description (which will help develop practice-relevant findings)

Results

Research summary

This research is only just beginning but initial work indicates that there are three potentially complementary needs that can be exploited. These are:

- Society: The need to reduce carbon emissions in-line with climate science (public good);
- Industry: the need to innovate and engage in research to retain competitive edge; and
- University: enhance industry engagement by using the campus as a living laboratory where solutions for living in a low/zero carbon future can be researched, taught and tested.

Table 1: Anticipated benefit realisation

	Carbon reduction	Strategic research	Long term partnerships	Enhanced competitiveness
Public	✓	✓		✓
Industry		✓	✓	✓
Universities	✓	✓	✓	

The academic and grey literature points towards several gaps or weaknesses in the way universities and industry operate that need to be addressed in order to deliver the above benefits. These are

- The under-researched role of leadership in the public sector to deliver public goods and its impact on wider society;
- The value that students place on environmental performance of their accommodation (and in turn its value to industry and Universities);
- Weak investment by the construction industry in research and innovation; and
- Generally poor track record in Australia of productive university/industry partnerships.

To address all these issues the research will co-create a costed business model to deliver the anticipated benefits (see Figure 1).

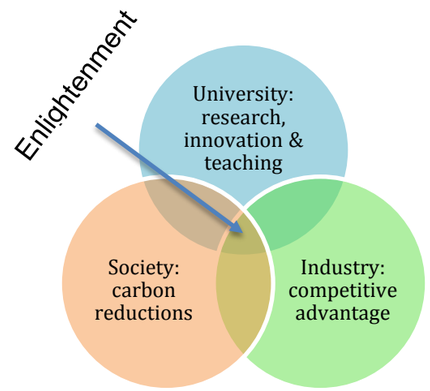

Figure 1 Realising the benefits

Conclusions

What conclusions can you draw from your research results?

What I am proposing is to see if it is possible to understand, and then integrate, the following three individual initiatives to deliver the benefits identified:

- Impact of public sector leadership on the wider community
- Working with the private sector to deliver innovation
- Using minimum standards (green tape) to deliver a progressive change in environmental performance

Anticipated impacts (50 words)

There are a wide group of stakeholders that will be impacted. The main focus will be the construction, professional services industry and the tertiary education sector as it will develop a new business model for the sector to efficiently deliver benefits outlined. If the results are convincing it may also influence thinking and policy development in state and Commonwealth Government.

Key statement about the research project to go into this space (what is the key message?).

This research will seek to develop a costed business case so that universities and industry can work together to deliver low/zero carbon campuses, long term partnerships and mutually beneficial long terresearch and innovation programs.

Further information

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