

EDITION 3  
**ESD DESIGN GUIDE**  
OFFICE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS





### MINISTER'S FOREWORD

*The built environment is where Australians live and where many of us spend our working lives. Our buildings say a lot about who we are and what we value.*

*According to the OECD in 2003, buildings make up a big part of our environmental footprint – consuming between 30 and 50 per cent of available raw materials, and accounting for 25 to 40 per cent of final energy use.*

*In addition, urban water demand is significant, at 16% of Australia's total water consumption – with up to 10% of that use in our office buildings.*

*The Australian Government is taking up the challenge of making buildings more sustainable. As well as having policy for energy efficiency in our own activities, the Australian Government is committed to working with industry and other stakeholders to provide concise and accurate guidance on building environmentally sustainable structures and running those assets well.*

*This third edition of our popular **ESD Design Guide** explores the opportunities that exist at the design*

*stage for office and public buildings to make a difference on energy, water, waste, greenhouse emissions, indoor environment quality and other sustainability performance issues. The guide also includes case studies of leading Australian buildings to demonstrate that the market is already able to design and deliver these results.*

*This document is part of a developing suite of guides, developed with agencies and industry, including the **Water efficiency guide – office and public buildings** and a green leasing guide. Forthcoming publications include an **ESD Operations Guide** for owners, managers and tenants, which will introduce the key opportunities to improve the environmental performance of existing buildings.*

*In mid 2007 the Australian Government will release **Your Building** – a comprehensive best practice guide for commercial buildings at all phases of their life-cycles. This online guide will be a companion to the well-known guide for residential buildings called **Your Home**.*

*While the challenges of building and living sustainably are significant, this guide will help the building design and construction industry to learn from leading examples, and to help improve the environmental performance of our cities.*

*This is an important step in the ongoing process of improving the sustainability of our built environment.*

**The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Minister for the Environment and  
Water Resources  
April 2007**

### The Department of the Environment and Water Resources

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Video clips have been included in the online guide to provide additional content, context and experience (see [www.sustainability.gov.au/publications](http://www.sustainability.gov.au/publications)). Each is preceded by a short section of the clip transcribed and edited to a print readable form. We thank Mark Thomson, Stephen Webb, Mick Pearce, David Oppenheim, Kerry Wilmott, Chris Barnett, Martin Osolnik, Tim Hurburgh, Paul Edwards, Paul Bannister and Sean McArdle for their participation.