
President's report

TO: Life Cycle Association of New Zealand
FROM: Barbara Nebel
DATE: 19 June 2019
SUBJECT: **President's Report for the year June 1st 2018 to May 31st 2019**

The focus in the 2018/2019 year has been on starting some key initiatives for LCANZ and its members, the most significant being the update of the LCANZ website. 2018/2019 has also seen a significant increase in Life Cycle Assessment in New Zealand, providing LCANZ with an opportunity to engage with a wider group of interested parties.

LCANZ website

The LCANZ website has been updated significantly, including a refresh of the look and feel. A key change for members is that each corporate member can now create their own profile and keep this updated. This gives members an opportunity to showcase their own LCA work and demonstrate their engagement in the LCA community. See the news item on our website and in our July newsletter for more.

The Australasian EPD Programme

During last year the number of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) published in New Zealand went up from 3 EPDs from previous years to 10 published EPDs. This demonstrates a significant increase in businesses undertaking LCA studies which are consequently published as an EPD.

Representation at LCA conference in Australia

LCANZ supported Chanjief Chandrakumar, a PhD student at the New Zealand Life Cycle Management Centre, to attend the 10th Australian Life Cycle Assessment Conference, organized by the Australian LCA Society, held on 4-6 March 2019 at Rydges Cronulla Beachside, Sydney. A total of 10 participants from New Zealand contributed significantly to the conference across a number of presentations and topics.

General uptake of Life Cycle Thinking concepts

The Productivity Commission's *Low-emissions economy* report, published in August 2018, clearly references the need to consider embodied emissions in goods and services for a low carbon economy. This is a clear reference to life cycle thinking and it is expected that this will require more Life Cycle Assessment studies and in particular the development of further EPDs in the building sector. It was also very encouraging to see a work item on Life Cycle Assessment as part of the programme of the 'rethinking plastics' project from the Office of the Prime Ministers chief science advisor.

Outlook

For 2019/2020 the focus will be building on offering a range of workshops and webinars for LCANZ members. This will include a summit "#rethinkLCA" for the 10th Anniversary of LCANZ to be held in November.

In addition, the Best Practice Working Group will be extending their scope to support businesses in their use of LCA, and is seeking new members from a range of backgrounds; see the news item on our website and in our July newsletter for more.

We are looking forward to working closely with LCANZ members on these initiatives.