

Our Stakeholders



We have a genuine regard for the interests of our stakeholders. Developing and maintaining a strong relationship with our stakeholders is crucial to our business success and maintaining our licence to operate.

Stakeholder engagement is integrated into our business systems and processes. To achieve our objective of performance at a level of Industry Best Practice a number of the BSDT elements incorporate specific requirements to engage and communicate with various stakeholder groups. In addition, two BSDT elements focus specifically on Boral's performance in regard to stakeholder engagement: Community Relations and Engagement and External Relations and Communications.

The table on the following page outlines the main methods used to engage with our key stakeholders in addition to Boral's Annual, Sustainability and half-yearly reports and website, which are targeted at all key stakeholders.

Engaging with our stakeholders through our Sustainability Report

Boral's annual Sustainability Report is the main avenue by which we provide information to our stakeholders on sustainability matters. During 2008/09, we sought feedback on Boral's 2008 Sustainability Report through two formal discussion groups with employee, shareholder, customer, supplier, and community representatives. The feedback obtained through these forums was used in determining how to present this year's report.

Government and regulators

Boral aims to have regular dialogue with key external decision makers and engage in policy shaping on sustainability issues.

Boral has regular dialogue with public officials both directly and through membership of industry associations.

Boral has a Government Relations policy which recognises the role of governments and outlines our approach to working with government.

Boral is actively engaged in commenting on government consultation processes relating to sustainability issues. During 2008/09, public advocacy efforts largely revolved around emissions trading and the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS) requirements. Our submissions can be found on our website at www.boral.com.au/sustainability.

We participate in government initiatives to help shape decision making and policy. During the year, Boral was a Pilot Group member for NGERS working with the Department of Climate Change. Boral is also represented on the Federal Government's Built Environment Industry Innovation Council.

At a business level, Boral directly engages with local councils and regulators such as state EPAs and planning authorities.

Political contributions

Boral is apolitical and does not make donations to political parties or individuals. In 2008/09, Boral did not renew membership of the NSW Millennium Forum and NSW Australian Labor Party's Business Dialogue, which had been retained in recent years to attend business events and access bipartisan political debate. The Australian Electoral Commission's reportable funding from Boral in 2008/09 was nil.

Industry influence

Boral actively participates in major business and industry associations and initiatives which to varying extents focus on sustainable development. These associations include: Cement Industry Federation; Cement, Concrete and Aggregates Australia; Housing Industry Association; Think Brick Australia; Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries; Gypsum Board Manufacturers Association; The Urban Development Institute of Australia; and the Business Council of Australia (BCA). Boral's CEO, Rod Pearse, is a BCA Board member and Chair of the BCA's Sustainable Growth Taskforce.

Boral is continuing to work with the Building Products Innovation Council (BPIC) and various industry associations to develop a robust lifecycle analysis and inventory methodology to ensure a scientific and consistent approach in comparing building materials across their lifecycle.

Community and neighbours

Boral's objective is to maintain support and goodwill of communities surrounding Boral's activities through engaging and consulting on relevant issues.

Community liaison groups exist at key Boral operations and a number of smaller operations to facilitate the exchange of open and transparent communication.

The most common issues of local concern raised through community consultation processes are about local noise and vibration impacts, dust or emissions, traffic conditions or biodiversity. In operations that raise considerable concern or contention, we may engage specialist consultants to investigate these concerns and/or provide expert advice. When appropriate, we also establish dust, noise and vibration monitoring devices on our neighbours' properties to help ensure that we are operating within acceptable levels.

A summary of recent and current issues of concern to local communities surrounding our operations or proposed development is included in the table on page s27.

We actively consult with communities when considering major new investments and land management issues. Stakeholder reference groups are formed for major developments to facilitate risk assessments to identify and rank perceived risks. On land management issues, we often work in partnership with local community members, special interest groups and/or government bodies.