

Building a Green Utopia

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Abstract

The knowledge and technologies exist to radically modify the built environment to achieve more “sustainable” outcomes – from the scale of planning of metropolises to the design/construction of building components.

This paper explores the conditions under which such knowledge and technologies are likely to be applied, and why these conditions seem to have been met so infrequently in the past.

Finally, the potential role of government interventions to achieve more sustainable buildings and cities is examined.

Dr Neil Byron has been a Commissioner in the Productivity Commission since June 1998, with particular responsibility for sustainable development, natural resources and the environment.

Previous appointments have been with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Director of the Graduate Program in Environment and Development at Australian National University, then Assistant Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research, based in Indonesia

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