

Independent verification statement



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INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION STATEMENT

To the Managing Director, Advisory Council and Stakeholders of Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia Pacific Pty Ltd:

Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) commissioned Net Balance Management Group Pty Ltd (Net Balance) to provide independent verification of the information presented within the 2010 Sustainability Report. The Sustainability Report presents PB's non-financial performance over the period 1 January to 31 December 2010.

PB was responsible for the preparation of the Sustainability Report and this verification statement represents Net Balance's independent opinion on the reliability of information presented within the Report. Net Balance's responsibility as an independent verification provider is to the Managing Director, and Advisory Council of PB alone and in accordance with the terms of reference agreed with them. Other stakeholders should perform their own due diligence before taking any action as a result of this statement.

Verification Objective

The objective of the verification process is to provide PB and its stakeholders with an independent opinion on the accuracy of the information presented within the Sustainability Report. This was achieved by reviewing the accuracy and quality of disclosed sustainability performance information and the underlying systems, processes, information and data used to support the sustainability performance disclosures presented.

Verification Methodology

The verification process was undertaken in May and June 2011 and involved:

- A review of the draft 2010 Sustainability Report for any anomalies, particularly in relation to significant claims as well as trends in data.
- A review of PB's key systems and processes used for managing and reporting sustainability performance information.
- A review of the accuracy and source of information presented in the report through examination of 51 selected sustainability performance disclosures.
- A series of interviews with key personnel responsible for collating and writing various components of the report in order to substantiate the veracity of selected claims.
- Collecting and evaluating evidence to support the verification work undertaken.

Verification Limitations

The verification process was subject to the following limitations:

- The scope of work did not involve verification of financial data, other than that relating to environmental, social or broader economic performance.
- All data being reviewed was done so remotely via telephone.
- Contractor or third party data was not reviewed in detail.

Independence and Credentials

Net Balance was not responsible for preparation of any part of the PB Sustainability Report. Net Balance confirms that we are

not aware of any issue that could impair our objectivity in relation to this verification engagement.

The verification engagement was carried out by a team of professionals with expertise in environmental, social and economic performance measurement, and led by a Lead Sustainability Assurance Practitioner (Lead CSAP) accredited by AccountAbility (UK).

Reliability of Performance Information

Based on the verification procedures undertaken, the following represents Net Balance's opinion:

- The findings of the verification engagement provide confidence in the systems and processes used for managing and reporting sustainability performance information.
- The level of accuracy of sustainability performance information was found to be within acceptable limits.
- Data trails selected were generally identifiable and traceable, and the personnel responsible were able to reliably demonstrate the origin(s) and interpretation of data.
- The sustainability performance disclosures reviewed during this engagement appropriately reflect performance achieved during the period.
- The Parsons Brinckerhoff GRI Application Level has been affirmed by Net Balance as A+.

The Way Forward

It was found that PB has well-established internal processes in place to report upon Sustainability performance across the business. To ensure that PB continues to improve, Net Balance has provided a number of recommendations:

- Data control procedures should be developed for each Sustainability indicator. These procedures should document the process for collecting, recording and storing data. This approach will ensure that data is consistently measured and reported over time. The procedures will also help to reduce the occurrence of transcription errors and improve record keeping.
- Linkages between spreadsheets should be established to ensure that data transcription errors are minimised.
- PB should consider moving to a more comprehensive assurance process in the future. Using an international standard, such as the AA1000AS (2008), will help the organisation to improve reporting and further integrate sustainability principles into the business.

Findings

Overall, it is Net Balance's opinion that the disclosures covered by this engagement are fair and accurate and that they form a reliable account of PB's sustainability performance during the reporting period.

On behalf of the verification team
17th June 2011
Melbourne, Australia

Terence Jeyaretnam, FIEAust
Director, Net Balance & Lead CSAP (AccountAbility UK)