

## Hivve Sustainable Schools was delighted to attend the inaugural School Infrastructure NSW Sustainability Forum on Monday 29 October.

The day focused on the responsibility we all have to ensure that social, economic and environmental sustainability is embedded into the design and operation of schools: “the heart of our communities.”

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP launched a new guide, *Environmental Design in Schools*, and his opening address highlighted the importance of an “authentic sustainability” that is not just good for the environment, but also brings positive social and economic benefits. Stokes emphasised how environmentally friendly changes to a school’s design and operations can improve teaching and learning outcomes, drive down maintenance costs, and also help frame the way that students think about the environment.

A number of speakers spoke about seeing buildings as “living systems”. Jason McLennan of The Living Building Challenge talked about his vision to create buildings that give more than they take, creating a positive impact on the human and natural systems that interact with them—buildings that are designed to be resilient and self-sufficient.

McLennan, as well as other speakers, also talked about designing buildings as pedagogical tools in order to shape the attitudes of younger generations. “We want children to be the protectors and stewards of the environment so they have a strong relationship with the natural world,” he said.

Anthony Manning, CEO of School Infrastructure NSW finished the day speaking about future opportunities to build and develop sustainable schools as part of the NSW Government’s \$6 billion plan to upgrade 170 schools across the State over the next four years.

A highlight for us was to hear from Principal Andrew FitzSimmons and students from Dapto High School talking about their school’s decision to embrace sustainability and the positive impact this has had on learning outcomes. Our Hivve has been an integral part of their sustainability journey. As well as being a great learning environment, and a pedagogical tool to teach students about sustainability, our Hivve continues to offset power bills by generating energy for other classrooms.

Our Hivve<sup>IQ</sup> system also captures information from the school’s other solar array and integrates it with the Hivve’s detailed performance data to give a powerful, real time picture of solar energy generation and use across the whole school.

