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AusLSA members find environmental reductions

The Australia Legal Sector Alliance's (AusLSA) promotion of sustainable practices across the legal sector is achieving real reductions according to the *Environmental Consumption of AusLSA Members 2010/11* report.

AusLSA has today released its second annual *Environmental Consumption of AusLSA Members* report in conjunction with its 2011 Reporting Member Logo.

Commenting on the report's findings Kelvin O'Connor, AusLSA board Co-Chair and Chief Operating Officer at Henry Davis York, said the results were encouraging and would provide a roadmap to continued sustainability improvements within the AusLSA membership.

"Through publicly reporting their carbon footprint, the 15 reporting firms have provided all AusLSA members with an understanding of where we are succeeding and what our future objectives must be. Compared to last year, reporting members have reduced paper consumption by 7.0% and electricity consumption by 3.9%. This is an outstanding result and given electricity consumption constitutes 66.7% of overall legal sector emissions, it is a very important one," said Mr O'Connor.

While recognising the achievement of reducing paper and energy consumption, Mr O'Connor said the future challenge for AusLSA members would be reducing business travel emissions.

"Over the past 12 months we have seen business travel – and in particular air travel - begin to return to pre-GFC levels. This is obviously having an impact on our members' carbon footprint. Face-to-face meetings with clients and colleagues will always be required. However, the challenge for our members will be determining what is essential business travel and what meetings could otherwise be conducted via new technologies."

In conjunction with the release of the 2010/11 *Environmental Consumption of AusLSA Members* report, AusLSA has launched its new 'Reporting Member logo'. The logo will be sent to all firms who publicly reported their carbon footprint in 2010/11.

Mr O'Connor said: "This year 15 member firms - representing 75% of our membership base - will receive the logo. All AusLSA members who report should be commended for publishing their environmental performance and for their public commitment to continually improve their sustainability performance and the broader sustainability efforts of the Australian legal sector."

The Australian Legal Sector Alliance (AusLSA) is an industry-led association working collaboratively to promote sustainable practices across the legal sector.

AusLSA provides tools and resources to law firms that will assist our members implement programmes and policies to reduce their environmental impact. Our collaborative and inclusive approach will facilitate the development of best practice sustainability guidelines for the Australian legal sector.

More information on AusLSA can be found at <http://www.legalsectoralliance.com.au/>