Acclaimed as Victoria’s most sustainable heritage building, the adaptation of the Goods Shed North overlays contemporary office accommodation onto a historic building which provides the ‘backdrop’. No. 2 Goods Shed is included on the Victorian Heritage Register for its historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. At 365 metres long, it is the largest and most architecturally elaborate nineteenth century railway goods building in Victoria. Built in 1889-90, the former railway goods shed, which is the first heritage-listed building in Victoria to attain a GBCA 5-star Green Star rating for office design, is occupied by State government agencies, Vic Urban, the Building Commission and Plumbing Industry Commission. The open interior with views along the axis of the building, clerestory windows, exposed roof trusses, brickwork and cast iron beams are amongst the features that have been retained.

The refurbishment boasts an array of ESD features including an under-floor service trench housing key services and a displacement system which supplies heating and cooling to the building; a tri-generation system with four micro-turbines coupled to an absorption chiller to produce energy. Within the building, active chilled beams provide cooling and ventilation, with hydraulic heating via skirting heaters around the perimeter. Rainwater is harvested from the roof for toilet flushing, and landscape irrigation. A greywater system has been installed along with efficient fixtures and fittings. Energy saving features include the use of recycled materials, and high-efficiency lighting.