

Free Trade Agreement Policy and New Issues Section
Office of Trade Negotiations
RG Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
BARTON ACT 0221

Submitted via email to: egnegotiations@dfat.gov.au

3 June 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: REMOVAL OF TARIFFS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS

The Green Building Council of Australia appreciates the opportunity to provide comment to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding the removal of tariffs from environmental goods. The GBCA believes that the removal of tariffs will deliver both immediate and ongoing benefits for our members, industry and the wider community.

The GBCA is the nation's authority on sustainable buildings, communities and cities. Our mission is to accelerate the transformation of Australia's built environment into one that is healthy, liveable, productive, resilient and sustainable. We work together with industry and government to encourage policies and programs that support our mission. We educate thousands of people each year on how to design and deliver sustainable outcomes for our buildings, communities and cities. We operate Australia's only national voluntary and holistic rating system for sustainable buildings and communities – Green Star.

The GBCA has over 780 member organisations including more than 130 building product manufacturers, suppliers and distributors (a list of these organisations can be found at Appendix A.). These organisations offer products that provide solutions for a range of issues encountered in the built environment including heat and energy management, air pollution control and testing, waste and water management, and environmental monitoring, analysis and assessment.

The removal of tariffs on environmental goods will remove a market barrier and will be a positive step towards making environmental goods more accessible, affordable and attractive. It will also provide an incentive for organisations in the product manufacturing and supply sector to grow their businesses and seek new markets.

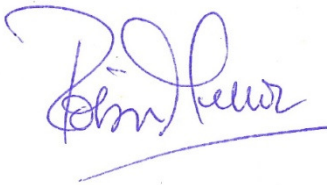
The Australian property and construction industry is a world leader in creating solutions for a more sustainable environment, and the removal of tariffs will further support Australia's international competitiveness and boost the sector's contribution to the economy. The GBCA has a strong, ongoing working relationship with AusTrade, working together to showcase

Australian innovation, leadership and expertise, encourage inward investment and linking Australian companies with international markets.

The GBCA advocates to all levels of government for a range of coordinated policies, regulations and initiatives that will accelerate the transformation of Australia's built environment into one that is healthy, liveable, productive, resilient and sustainable. The removal of tariffs on environmental goods is an important part of an integrated approach to delivering a range of environmental, social and economic benefits to the Australian and international communities.

I have written directly to our members asking them to consider making a submission to this consultation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any further information that I can provide.

Yours faithfully,



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