

Thursday 21st April 2011

The Hon Simon Finn MP
Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and
Information and Communication Technology
GPO Box 2457
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister,

**RE: Green Building Council of Australia's Submission to
Queensland's Approach to the National Broadband Network**

On behalf of the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to Queensland's approach to the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The GBCA is Australia's leading authority on green building, established in 2002 to develop a sustainable property industry in Australia and drive the adoption of green building practices. The GBCA promotes green building programs, technologies, design practices and processes, and operates Australia's only national voluntary comprehensive environmental rating system for buildings - Green Star.

Green Star is a comprehensive environmental rating system that evaluates the environmental design and construction of buildings. Green Star takes an holistic approach to rating buildings by requiring credits to be earned across nine categories including management, indoor environment quality, energy, water, land use and ecology, emissions, materials, innovation and transport.

The GBCA is currently developing, in consultation with government and industry, a rating tool for sustainable development projects on a community scale. The first step in developing the Green Star Communities rating tool was to develop a national framework consisting of five best practice principles:

- PRINCIPLE 1: Enhance liveability
- PRINCIPLE 2: Create opportunities for economic prosperity
- PRINCIPLE 3: Foster environmental responsibility
- PRINCIPLE 4: Embrace design excellence
- PRINCIPLE 5: Demonstrate visionary leadership and strong governance

A copy of the Green Star – Communities Framework is attached to this submission.

In every single Green Star rating tool, the Transport category rewards projects that reduce the environmental impact of buildings by rewarding developments which rely less heavily on car commuting and encouraging those which make best use of alternative transport options. These objectives will be supported by the NBN through increased opportunities for people to work from home, to find jobs nearer to where they live, or to work more flexible hours.

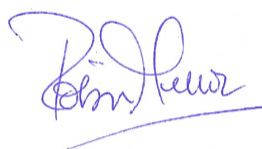
Better connectivity will also contribute to greater adaptability and future-proofing of buildings. Buildings such as offices, schools, hospitals and homes, among others, will be more flexible and better able to meet the challenges of a future that is becoming increasingly reliant on instant communications and the rapid exchange of information. The GBCA believes that the NBN has the potential to contribute significantly towards the creation of more sustainable communities, particularly in the areas of enhancing liveability and creating opportunities for economic prosperity.

The NBN will significantly increase connectivity for homes, businesses, schools, universities and a range of other institutions and organisations across Queensland and Australia. It will change the way many organisations choose to operate and affect where people choose to live. Ultimately, increased connectivity will enable more people to work from home, reducing the need to commute to work, and increasing 'building efficiency' levels around the country. It will also enable more businesses to locate themselves in suburban or regional areas, making it easier for people to be able to find jobs near to where they live.

The Queensland Government has a valuable opportunity to show visionary leadership by ensuring that the NBN becomes part of an integrated, strategic approach to planning and service delivery across Queensland.

We wish you all the best in developing and implementing initiatives that will optimise the benefits of the NBN for Queensland. Should you have any questions at all regarding the contents of this submission or the work of the GBCA, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at the address below.

Yours sincerely,



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Updated: 10 January 2012 RE