

30 September 2011

Metropolitan Water Directorate
NSW Government
McKell Building 2-24 Rawson Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: wica@waterforlife.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: WATER INDUSTRY COMPETITION (WIC) ACT

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the proposed options for a residential building mandatory disclosure scheme. The Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) mission is to develop a sustainable property industry and to drive the adoption of green building practices. The GBCA supports, in principle, initiatives that encourage these outcomes.

About the Green Building Council of Australia

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.

The GBCA has more than 940 member organisations, including government departments, which work together to support the Council and its activities. The GBCA is also a founding member of the World Green Building Council, which was established to provide a federated 'union' of national green building councils with a common goal to support the sustainable transformation of the global property industry; there are now 89 such councils worldwide.

The Green Star rating tools

Green Star is a voluntary tool that encourages, recognises and rewards best practice and innovation. The first Green Star rating tool was released in 2003 in response to market demand for a rating tool that would evaluate the environmental design and construction of buildings as well as establishing a common language for green buildings.

There are currently nine Green Star rating tools which address a range of building types and more than 350 buildings have achieved Green Star ratings, with a further 540 projects registered. The Green Star rating system is designed to take an holistic approach within each class and building sector, addressing nine categories in total: Management, Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ), Energy, Transport, Water, Materials, Land Use and Ecology, Emissions and Innovation.

Green Star rating tools promote water efficiency through awarding credits to projects that address the reduction of potable water through the efficient design of building services, water reuse and substitution with other water sources

We believe the provisions of the WIC Act allowing private sector companies to become providers of reticulated drinking water, recycled water and sewerage services could be useful to a number our members. The GBCA supports the improvement of regulations to ensure that water and sewerage services will be delivered safely and reliably at all times.

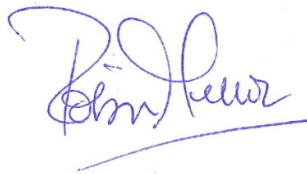
We encourage you to look upon the GBCA as the primary green building resource and we would welcome the opportunity to brief you on the work we are doing. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide more information on green buildings and communities.

The GBCA looks forward to working with the NSW Government to ensure Australia's transition to a low-carbon future through greener, healthier more sustainable communities.

Yours sincerely,



Romilly Madew
Chief Executive



Robin Mellon
Executive Director – Advocacy and International