

Report of Stakeholder Feedback on the draft Green Star 'Steel' credit

April 2010

The revised Green Star 'Steel' credit was developed by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), in conjunction with its Steel Expert Reference Panel (SERP), in order to update the 'Steel' credit within the Green Star rating tools.

The GBCA ensures that the public review of the revised Steel credit is transparent through a formal stakeholder feedback process; details of which can be viewed at www.gbca.org.au. The process includes publishing a Stakeholder Feedback Report. This document provides a summary of feedback on the revised Steel credit that was received in writing from stakeholders. For each item of feedback, the GBCA's response is provided. As part of the process, any comments received after the public review period has closed are considered for further improvement as part of future versions of the Steel Credit.

A total of 2 submissions were received; both submissions are supportive of the changes and propose clarifications for the compliance requirements of the credit.

The feedback is provided in italics. This is followed by the GBCA response to the feedback including any changes made to the credit based on this feedback.

Comment: The criteria related to the use of high strength steel list 'Category A' products such as girts, purlins, decking etc. These are not measured in tonnes. The quantity surveyor and building estimator would not have a tonnes rate for this material. Therefore the total building tonnes required by the criteria would not be known. The bill of materials for the 'as built' structure would not be available from the quantity surveyor but the detailer/engineer or the building contractor.

GBCA response: The GBCA agrees with this feedback; the revised credit will include a reference to a calculator that will convert linear metres to tonnes for Category A products. The 'As Built' requirements related to these criteria will be changed to require input from the detailer, engineer or building contractor instead of a quantity surveyor.

Comment: The Australian Steel Institute Sustainability Charter Members should have a recognisable logo to facilitate easy recognition of this qualification.

GBCA response: The GBCA agrees with this feedback; the Australian Steel Institute has committed to provide an easily recognised mark or logo for sustainability charter members.

Comment: I am concerned over the Australian Steel Institute Sustainability Charter member signing up and not moving toward an EMS or actual sustainability improvements.

GBCA response: The GBCA agrees with this feedback; the Australian Steel Institute has committed to enact a web-based system where it will see and monitor progress. There is also an official independent audit included as one of the 5 steps; this whole process has a time limit of 12 months. The Australian Steel Institute will publish a list of engaged fabricators.

Comment: I believe that the documentation required for the four criteria of the credit is very onerous for the number of credits awarded, especially for an As Built rating. This is not an incentive for projects to claim this point. We may need to simplify the documentation requirements and encourage projects to do the right thing rather than hinder the use of the credit.

GBCA response: The GBCA agrees with this feedback in part; the documentation guidelines of the credit have been revised and simplified where possible. A template for compliance documentation related to the Credit Criteria has been included in the Additional Guidance section of the credit.

Comment: The credit is far too prescriptive.

GBCA response: The GBCA understands that the credit might be seen as prescriptive; however the revised credit includes the criteria recognised as beneficial during the credit review and that act as a driver for change towards improved environmental outcomes from the use of steel. Other, less prescriptive opportunities for evaluating and encouraging reduced environmental impact arising from the use of steel may arise in the future through the application of an LCA approach. The GBCA will consider the implementation of such an approach in future Green Star rating tools.