

Waste Strategy Taskforce  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: [nationalwastepolicy@environment.gov.au](mailto:nationalwastepolicy@environment.gov.au)

12 October 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: 2009 NATIONAL WASTE POLICY REVIEW**

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the National Waste Policy Review.

The GBCA, established in 2002 is an industry association committed to developing buildings, cities and communities that are productive, liveable, healthy, resilient and sustainable.

- We rate the sustainability of buildings and communities through Australia's only national, voluntary, holistic rating system – Green Star.
- We educate industry and government practitioners and decision-makers and promote green building programs, technologies, design practices and operations.
- We advocate for the sustainable transformation of the built environment.

The GBCA represents 600-plus individual companies with a collective annual turnover of more than \$40 billion. Our membership reflects the diversity of Australian business with over 500 small-to-medium enterprises through to 75 companies with annual turnover of more than \$100 million and 24 companies now listed in the ASX200, with a combined market capitalisation of more than \$620 billion. Members include major developers, professional services firms, banks, superannuation funds, product manufacturers, retailers and suppliers

Green Star, the GBCA's independent sustainability rating and certification scheme for buildings and communities currently provides a voluntary standard that has supported leadership in the property and construction sector around waste management. The rating tools currently address waste minimisation in buildings through the credits for Operational Waste, Construction and Demolition Waste and Waste Management, which incentivise industry to promote best practice design, construction and management. For instance, the 'Construction and Demolition Waste' credit aims to encourage and reward management practices that minimise the amount of construction and demolition waste from base building and/or interior fitout works that is disposed to landfill. On average, Green Star certified buildings recycle 54 per cent more of their construction and demolition waste than standard practice.

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The GBCA's standards for best practice waste management extends to the broader supply chain. For instance, waste contractors and waste processing facilities providing services to projects seeking Green Star certification must comply with the current version of the Green Star 'Construction and Demolition Waste Reporting Criteria'. This reporting criteria was developed to address reporting accuracy claims and recognise best practice standards. Over the coming months, as the GBCA embarks on the process of developing the next version of the Green Star rating tools, this Reporting Criteria as well as other Green Star requirements for waste management will be reviewed. As part of this process, we will be undertaking extensive consultation to seek industry and government input on these standards. We expect feedback received from waste contractors and waste facilities will be incorporated, ranging from their experience in demonstrating compliance to insights regarding recent advances in the waste industry

The GBCA's work to drive better practice around waste management further recognises that waste sent to landfill contributes to indirect emissions from buildings, which currently account for almost 25 per cent of our national emissions. The GBCA's [Carbon Positive Roadmap](#), which presents a blueprint for industry and government to transition towards a zero emissions built environment practically addresses issues associated with waste related emissions by setting requirements for buildings seeking Green Star certification. As an example, the next revision of Green Star will include requirements for green lease clauses for tenant emissions from waste. Through these efforts, we are working with our stakeholders to support emissions reduction by transforming industry practice around issues such as waste and recycling.

The GBCA supports the Property Council of Australia's submission for this Review, which notes the need for government leadership to drive further action through incentive programs and regulatory measures. As observed in the response, the challenges faced by the property industry will require considered Government intervention and leadership from the Commonwealth as well as the states, territories and local governments to address. Whilst the Government's proposal to update the national policy is welcomed, we further urge consideration of an appropriate governance structure that facilitates national collaboration.

The GBCA would like to be involved in future deliberations with industry in regards to review of the 2009 National Waste Policy. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [sandra.qian@gbca.org.au](mailto:sandra.qian@gbca.org.au) for further information.

Yours Sincerely,



Jonathan Cartledge  
Head of Public Affairs