

Ms Lauren Kajewski  
Senior Manager - Sustainability  
UrbanGrowth NSW  
Level 12, 19 Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

12 May 2017

Dear Ms Kajewski,

### **Re: Draft Sustainability Strategy**

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) commends UrbanGrowth NSW on renewing its leadership towards sustainable urban development, through the publishing of the Draft Sustainability Strategy. The GBCA is pleased to be able to support the important work of UrbanGrowth and we have appreciated the collaborative and consultative nature of UrbanGrowth's engagement with us and our members for many years.

Since its inception in 2002, the GBCA has worked towards inspiring, influencing and empowering the property and construction industry by driving the adoption of sustainable building and community practices. To effectively respond to rapid changes facing our cities in the context of globalisation, resilience and adaptation, technological advances and shifting social demands, the mandate of the GBCA extended and evolved beyond green buildings to address the broader challenge of catalysing a sustainable cities movement.

The GBCA appreciates the opportunity to provide comment as part of the public consultation on the draft Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy is appropriately succinct, and has focussed on clear goals, targets and priorities which we support

This submission has focussed on some specific comments in relation to indicators and priorities for each of the four goal areas, as well as some other general comments outlined below:

- The GBCA welcomes the commitment to Green Star as outlined and the leadership it signals in delivering Australian excellence in the built environment in a collaborative relationship between UrbanGrowth NSW and industry. We believe there is an opportunity to further strengthen this commitment in the draft document through overarching requirements highlighting the important role of Green Star in delivering sustainability benefits across those priorities outlined.
- The GBCA is interested in reviewing future supporting material that provides a more detailed process to embed this strategy into procurement policy and with project stakeholders.
- We support the alignment of this strategy, its goals, targets and priorities with relevant global and domestic policy commitments.

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In the marked-up version of the draft Strategy (Attachment A), the GBCA has recommended a number of metrics/indicators for inclusion in the Targets or Priorities. Given the unique nature of each and every project, a mandatory target across all projects may not be feasible, or effective, but rather requiring each and every project to create a meaningful target for the metric could be an effective strategy. The GBCA would be happy to work with UrbanGrowth NSW on this approach should it consider it beneficial.

We note that resilience in the draft Strategy has been categorised as an environmental issue, versus a more holistic concept as per the Resilient Sydney framework (which also addresses social and economic shocks and stresses). We recommend that this be reviewed and updated, as per our detailed notes in the mark-up.

The Green Star requirements listed in the 'Environmental Management' goal area is strongly supported, however we question whether this might be better included as part of a more overarching set of requirements at the front of the Strategy.

Finally, the GBCA wishes to see this Strategy apply to all urban transformation projects in which UrbanGrowth NSW is playing a significant role, whether it be leading or partnering with another Agency. This should be a condition of engagement when UrbanGrowth NSW becomes a key project stakeholder, to ensure that the projects it 'shapes', are shaped in accordance with the Strategy.

The GBCA will continue to work closely with UrbanGrowth NSW, to ensure we support the delivery of this strategy and the positioning of UrbanGrowth NSW as a global leader in sustainable urban development.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 8239 6200, or via email at [jonathan.cartledge@gbca.org.au](mailto:jonathan.cartledge@gbca.org.au), for further information or to arrange a meeting to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Cartledge  
Head of Public Affairs