

MEDIA RELEASE

REVIEW OF GREEN STAR SUSTAINABLE TIMBER CREDIT

Thursday, 19 March: The chief executives of the Green Building Council of Australia, Romilly Madew and Australian Forestry Standard Limited, Kayt Watts, today released a joint statement regarding the review of the Green Star Mat-8 'Sustainable Timber' credit.

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) commenced a review of the Mat-8 'Sustainable Timber' credit last year, as part of its ongoing process to ensure the Green Star suite of environmental rating tools for buildings reflect industry best practice.

"The fundamental aim of the review of the credit is to recognise the value of all certified timber products and to promote the important role which the Australian timber industry plays in the green building supply chain," said the GBCA's Chief Executive, Romilly Madew.

As part of the review, an independent Timber Expert Reference Panel of nine people was formed including:

- Craig Heaton (Chair), Former Chair of GBCA Board (NSW)
- Greg Nolan, Centre for Sustainable Architecture, Uni. of Tasmania (TAS)
- Chris Taylor, RMIT University PhD Candidate in Forest Certification (VIC)
- Rod Keenan, Forest and Ecosystem Science, Uni. of Melbourne (VIC)
- Glen Kile, Former CEO of Forest and Wood Products Australia Ltd (VIC)
- John Kerin, AM FTSE, Consultant (NSW)
- Genevieve Scarfe, Sustainable Development Manager, Lend Lease (NSW)
- Jana Blair, WWF Australia (VIC) and
- Fred Gale, Professor School of Government, University of Tasmania (TAS)

This independent expert panel undertook the review of the credit and explored the establishment of a fair and transparent framework for assessment of forest certification schemes against international best practice criteria.

"We fully support the membership of the Timber Expert Reference Panel and the work that they've undertaken," said Chief Executive of Australian Forestry Standard Limited (AFSL), Kayt Watts.

"It is clear that the panel approached the task in a fair and reasonable manner and with no pre-conceptions. This independent review of the credit, in recognizing the Australian Forest Certification Scheme and its elements the Australian Standards for forest management and chain of custody, is an appropriate and fair way of continuing to ensure Green Star recognises the needs of the forest industry while achieving positive environmental outcomes."

"This is a very positive step for both the GBCA and the Australian forest industry," Ms Watts added.

Key industry stakeholders will be briefed on the panel's recommendations in the coming days and a public announcement of the changes will be made shortly after those briefing sessions and following final GBCA Board approval.

"We look forward to continuing to positively engage with industry stakeholders such as the AFS and other certification schemes throughout the review process and welcome their positive and productive involvement," Ms Madew concluded.

MEDIA RELEASE

About the Green Building Council of Australia

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) is Australia's leading authority on green building. The GBCA was established in 2002 to develop a sustainable property industry in Australia and drive the adoption of green building practices.

About the Australian Forestry Standards Limited

Australian Forestry Standard Limited is a Standards Development Organisation and a not-for-profit public company registered in July 2003. The company owns the standard development functions and manages the elements of the **Australian Forest Certification Scheme**.

Media Contact:

Karen Jamal
Green Building Council of Australia
Tel: 0412 79 135
Email: karen.jamal@gbca.org.au

Kayt Watts
Australian Forestry Standard Limited
Tel: +61 (0) 2 6232 5356 or 0400 140 303
Email: info@forestrystandard.org.au
<http://www.forestrystandard.org.au>

-END-