

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via Email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

2 December 2016

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Inquiry into non-conforming building products

The Green Building Council of Australia's mission is to accelerate the transformation of Australia's built environment into one that is healthy, liveable, productive, resilient and sustainable.

In the context of this mission we strongly support the Senate inquiry into non-conforming building products and welcome its reinstatement in the 45th Parliament. The increasing prevalence of non-conforming building products through the supply chain presents complex challenges and risks that must be addressed.

The GBCA is a proud advocate for the development of a sustainable property and construction industry. With over 1300 projects around Australia now certified through our Green Star rating tools the Australian property industry now leads global sustainability metrics. The advanced services and manufacturing industries supporting this transformation reflect Australia's commitment to innovation and excellence across design, building, operations and maintenance in our built environment.

Delivering healthy and safe buildings and communities must be our first priority in responding to the incidents of non-conforming products. More broadly, and as is noted in submissions to this Inquiry, consumer misperceptions about the causes and consequences of problems caused by these products also risks the perceived integrity and reputation of the entire supply chain. Purchasers of buildings products are unwittingly being put at risk of using defective products in work they undertake, and in so doing compromising the design and operation of associated buildings.

As has already been observed by Building Ministers around the country these issues are not easily resolved, but require a collaborative approach across industry. To that end the GBCA supports the approach and recommendations made by the Construction Product Alliance and the Building Products Innovation Council helping to identify a pathway to resolve these issues.

We commend the work of this Committee in responding to these submissions, and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively across government and industry towards their resolution in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Cartledge
Senior Manager – Government & Industry