

15 August 2005

«Title» «FirstName» «LastName»  
«Company»  
«Address1»  
«Address2»  
«City» «State» «PostalCode»

Dear «Title» «LastName»,

I wish to bring to your attention a situation that is unacceptable.

As you are aware I have been corresponding with Maria Atkinson, Executive Director of the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) for a considerable period over the issue of the Materials Content Criteria in the Green Stars – Office Interiors rating tool.

In response to the inadequate GBCA stakeholders teedback, I sent two letters to Maria Atkinson – one dated 6<sup>th</sup> June and the second 7<sup>th</sup> July. I received a response from Maria Atkinson in a letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> July.

On checking we noticed that Maria Atkinson's response letter had been published on the GBCA website. The letter was posted under the heading "**Correspondence with Instyle Contract Textiles**" with the claim *"that the GBC is committed to a transparent public stakeholder engagement process and in the interests of such transparency, the GBCA's response to Instyle's Managing Director, Michael Fitzsimons, is reproduced below for your information"*.

It is important to note that Maria Atkinson did not advise me that her letter would be published on the GBCA website, rather one of my staff discovered this on visiting the GBCA site. Also only Maria Atkinson's response letter was published and not my original letters that she was responding to.

Maria Atkinson's letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> July did not address the key issues raised satisfactorily and contained numerous inaccuracies. In the interest of transparency, I immediately requested Maria Atkinson publish my letters of the 6th June and 7th July to enable GBCA members and web site visitors to understand the issues raised in these letters equally as failure to do so would be prejudice readers opinion of INSTYLE's position on these issues. As a result of my demand the GBCA subsequently published my letters.

After the publication of correspondence between the GBCA and INSTYLE on the GBCA website, I find it extremely disturbing that the GBCA now refuses to publish my response letter dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> August correcting our position and the many inaccuracies contained in Maria Atkinson's response letter. I have made three requests to Maria Atkinson since the 2<sup>nd</sup> August to publish this letter and the only response I have received from Maria Atkinson on the 12<sup>th</sup> August is *"that the GBC acknowledges receipt of the correspondence dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August to which the GBC is considering its response"*.

On viewing the GBCA website Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August, it is noted the GBCA had removed all correspondence between the GBCA and INSTYLE. In doing so and refusing to publish my letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, the GBCA appears to be no longer committed to a transparent public stakeholder engagement process and it would now appear the GBCA is attempting to bury the issue from public view.

I have been approached by interested parties including the media (who I have passed on my response letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> August) however I am naturally concerned that many other people who have read Maria Atkinson's letter on the GBCA web site will be misinformed about the issues and INSTYLE's position.

It is more than a year since Instyle's initial approach to the GBCA regarding the GS-OI rating tool and it is simply unacceptable that the GBCA has still not been able/willing to provide credible reasons for excluding rapidly renewable resources (ie wool) and locally produced materials and as a result, in the case of textiles, the GBCA is preferencing imported recycled PET textiles.

In the interest of transparency and public accountability I request that the GBCA immediately re-publish our correspondence along with my most recent letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> August and the GBCA respond to the request for information supporting the GBCA's decisions as outlined in my letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Fitzsimons  
**Managing Director**

cc.

Green Building Council  
Minister for Environment  
VIC Premier  
Shadow Minister for Primary Industries:  
VIC Minister for Environment  
NSW Minister for Environment  
SA Minister for Administrative Services  
SA Shadow Minister for Environment  
Parliamentary Secretary  
General Manager Woolmark  
Aust Wool Growers Ltd  
ACTU  
TCFU  
QLD Department of Public Works  
AWI

Maria Atkinson  
Senator the Hon Ian Campbell  
The Hon Steve Bracks MP  
The Hon Duncan Gay  
The Hon John Thwaites MP  
The Hon Bob Debus MP  
The Hon Michael Wright MP  
The Hon Iain Evans MP  
The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP  
Leah Paff  
Charles Ollsen  
Steven Mullins  
Igor Nossar  
Delwyn Jones  
Ian McLaughlan