

# The Institute of Foresters of Australia

ABN 48 083 197 586



16 February 2008

The Green Building Council of Australia  
PO Box Q78  
QVB NSW 1230

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Proposed GBCA Sustainable Timber Credit – Public Review January 2008.**

The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in the public review of the Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) proposed Mat-8 Sustainable Timber Credit. Our submission is attached.

### **Background**

The IFA is uniquely qualified to comment on the criteria that the Mat-8 Sustainable Timber Credit (M8STC) will be based upon. Formed in 1935 the IFA is an advocate for better forest management, including high professional standards in forest and woodland management and for the active management of our forests for all values.

The IFA currently has 1300 members, located in each State and Territory of Australia and overseas. Our members are employed in a variety of forest management roles including: native forests, plantations, national parks, research, bushfire management, education, public service, administration, private forestry and industry. IFA members are committed to implementing continued improvements to planning and management systems, which protect current and future forest values and to maximise social and economic benefits whilst protecting the natural environment and cultural heritage.

The IFA encourages the wise and responsible use of our natural resources, including forest products. The IFA has supported the development of forest certification standards based upon clear and objective scientific criteria. To this end the IFA supports the emergence and adoption of forest certification standards and chain of custody certification as the best way for consumers to identify forest products derived from sustainably managed forests.

### **Environmental management of Australia's forests.**

Australia's forest managers have been at the forefront in the development of environmental standards for forest management. We support the GBCA's efforts to improve the environmental performance of the building sector and in particular to address the issue of sustainability. Sustainably produced forest products, including timber have a natural advantage over many alternative building products as they are naturally occurring, renewable, store carbon and are less energy intensive than alternative products such as concrete, steel, aluminium and plastic.

The IFA is pleased to provide the following submission on the GBCA's proposed M8STC and welcomes the opportunity provided by the GBCA to participate in this process.

Yours faithfully

Dr Peter Volker FIFR RPF  
President