



green building council australia

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14 October 2005

Mr Michael Fitzsimons
Managing Director
Instyle Contract Textiles Pty Ltd
6-8 Ricketty Street
Mascot NSW 2020

Dear Mr Fitzsimons

I refer to the numerous letters that you have written to the Green Building Council of Australia complaining about the actions of the Council's executive management. The issue that your correspondence addresses has been the Materials Content Criteria in the Green Star – Office Interiors rating tool. The Directors of the Green Building Council of Australia have discussed the content of your letters on a number of occasions and on their behalf I wish to make the following observations –

- 1 The Green Building Council (GBCA) has never attempted to make judgements regarding the “green” credentials of any individual product. It normally relies on credible third party certification and we respectfully suggest that Instyle should take a similar view:
2. You should be aware that maximum points will be available under the Green Star – Office Interiors rating tool for any fit-out item which has the Australian Environmental Labelling Association Ecolabel certification.
- 3 Insofar as your allegations that Maria Atkinson had briefed other interested parties including a journalist, to the effect that Instyle information “lacked comprehensiveness”, we advise as follows -
 - (i) The GBCA totally denies that any Board member, including Maria Atkinson, had made the alleged comments to journalists:
 - (ii) Furthermore, copies of correspondence between Instyle and GBCA were posted for a period of time on the Council's website. A review of this correspondence would have confirmed that the issues which then existed between Instyle and GBCA had certainly not been resolved:
4. You have also commented that Instyle has attempted to become involved or contributed to the development of the Green Star – Office Interiors rating tool without success. You should be aware that GBCA received 25 stakeholder submissions regarding the pilot Office Interiors rating tool and

a report consisting of 120 pages entitled "Stakeholder Submission Feedback Report" has been provided to outline the correction actions taken by GBCA in response to stakeholder submissions. I have been informed that all Instyle comments have been the subject of a response from GBCA.

5. My colleagues and I also wish to confirm that GBCA is not attempting to discredit any particular product, whether it be wool or some other Australian grown material. Nevertheless, the GBCA believes that it would be prudent for Instyle to seek certification from the Australian Environment Labelling Association via procedures that other textile and fit-out item manufacturers have pursued.
6. As far as I am aware, no GBCA Director individually, or the Board as a whole, has ever had a conflict of interest during the development and launch phases of the Office Interiors rating tool. We reiterate that Instyle's products have never been excluded – All that Instyle has to do is obtain third party certification, which should automatically allow your products to achieve maximum points.
7. We have noted your comment that you have no confidence in the performance and integrity of the management of the GBCA. Presumably you have reached this conclusion largely because you have been unable to force the GBCA management to do what you have requested of them. On behalf of the Board I am pleased to confirm that the Board has fully supported the actions taken by Maria Atkinson and the management team. Your efforts may produce better results if you take the following steps –
 - (i) Commission a full life cycle comparison of wool versus pre and post consumer recycled content fit-out items.
 - (ii) Work with fit-out item suppliers to obtain the "Environmental Choice Label" certification under the Australian Ecolabel Programme.

I hope that the contents of this letter responds to most of the claims and criticisms that you have made in recent months, especially those contained in your last letter dated September 21.

Yours faithfully



Brendan Crotty
Chairman
Green Building Council of Australia