



## MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

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3 December 2014

Ms Donna Taylor  
Coordinator – Business Development  
Latrobe City Council  
PO Box 264  
MORWELL VIC 3840

Dear Ms Taylor

### **Wood Encouragement Policy**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Latrobe City Council's draft *Wood Encouragement Policy*.

Master Builders Association of Victoria is the peak body representing employers in Victoria's building and construction industry. Our membership consists of more than 9000 builders, subcontractors, manufacturers, suppliers and students.

We support Latrobe City Council's aim to encourage the use of wood as the preferred material in the construction and fit-out of Council buildings and infrastructure, where it is practicable.

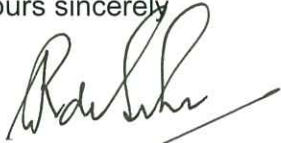
The winner of Master Builders Best Sustainable Energy Project at our 2014 Excellence in Construction Awards was the Melton Library and Learning Hub, which was a hybrid build utilising wood as a key feature, and we are increasingly seeing timber incorporated into building projects across the state. For example, the Australand five-storey timber apartments at Parkville Green and the new library at Docklands have been constructed primarily from wood products. Lend Lease has also recently made use of timber at its Forte Building in Docklands, which reduced the size and requirement of the building foundations.

The environmental benefits of using timber in construction are well-documented. Encouraging the use of wood will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, as carbon is captured and stored over the life of the product. Being a locally grown and supplied resource will see transport emissions reduced, and by specifying that the wood used meets Australian Forestry Standards, you will be ensuring the product is sourced from well-managed, renewable plantations.

Finally, using locally sourced products will continue to support jobs and stimulate economic growth in the Gippsland region.

Please contact Dr Phil Alviano, Sustainable Building Adviser, on (03) 9411 4577 if you would like to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Radley de Silva', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Radley de Silva  
Chief Executive Officer