**‘NatHERS Overview and Changes to Regulation’
Webinar and Q&A transcript – recorded 18 November 2021**

Hello – Thank you for joining us for the NatHERS Overview of Changes Information Session.

My name is **Angela Newey**. I lead one of the NatHERS teams in the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, and I will be joined by my colleagues Jo Brennan and Jodie Pipkorn, who lead the other two NatHERS teams in the Department.

I’m going to give you a quick snap shot of what the current NatHERS Scheme is, and then we’ll move onto the changes in the pipeline for NatHERS.

I will give you the policy context for the changes and then will outline the changes being implemented for the thermal assessment component of NatHERS.

Then Jo Brennan, will talk about the Whole of Home changes; and finally Jodie Pipkorn will talk about In Home Assessments.

For almost 30 years [NatHERS](http://www.nathers.gov.au/) has provided energy performance information to support Australian homeowners to build energy-efficient homes.

The current NatHERS Scheme assesses the thermal performance of a home, based on: its design specifications including its construction, materials, orientation and climate, the assessment is focused on the thermal shell (the roof, walls, windows, floor.).

NatHERS gives a star rating, out of 10.

NatHERS is a recognised compliance pathway in the National Construction Code.

It is the most popular way of demonstrating a new building, or major renovation, meets the minimum energy efficiency requirements of the NCC.

In the last financial year, about 90% of new building approvals used NatHERS for their energy assessment.

The strength of NatHERS include; it is based on nearly 30 years of robust scientific research and modelling by the CSIRO

It is also popular because it’s flexible. It allows homeowners, builders and assessors to decide how they want to meet the minimum standards.

They can compare the cost and thermal performance impact of different materials and design features.

NatHERS will show them when their design has met or exceeded, the minimum energy efficiency requirements.

Another strength of NatHERS is that it is not just a model, it’s maintained as a Scheme. The NatHERS Administrator works closely with our Industry partners and stakeholders to deliver and maintain the Scheme.

NatHERS is administered by the Commonwealth on behalf of all states and territories, to ensure it is a nationally applicable tool, and we have an agreed program of updates and improvements that we implement, to ensure NatHERS remains a practical and useful tool, to continue supporting Australians to build energy efficient homes.

We have some significant changes in the pipeline for NatHERS.

To understand the suite of changes being made to NatHERS, it’s helpful to consider the policy context, and in particular the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings and its Addendum.

In 2019 Energy Ministers agreed the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings and its Addendum.

These documents outline a national plan to achieve zero energy (and zero carbon) ready buildings in Australia.

That means we are moving towards buildings that have:

* An efficient thermal shell (roof, floor, walls, windows, and insulation)
* Energy efficient appliances
* And are ready to install renewable energy sources.

Key aspects of the Trajectory include agreement to:

* Implement cost effective increases to the energy efficiency provisions in the National Construction Code.
* Expanding NatHERS to offer nationally accredited whole-of-home performance rating and tools, and
* Deliver a home energy rating framework for existing homes that leverages NatHERS, in addition to providing ratings for new homes and major renovations.

So….to support the Trajectory, and the proposed changes to the NCC 2022, there are a suite of changes being made to NatHERS, including:

* Improvements to the thermal assessments, which I will talk a bit more about in a moment
* Expansion of NatHERS to offer Whole of Home performance ratings and tools – which Jo will talk more about shortly.
* NatHERS will also soon be extended to offer In Home energy assessments, for Existing houses – which Jodie will talk to you about shortly.

Now I will outline the changes being made to the thermal assessments in NatHERS – the climate file update and star band recalibration, the changes to the heating and cooling load limits and thermal bridging.

The climate files that are used to calculate star ratings for NatHERS are being updated with more recent and accurate weather data.

This is an important improvement to NatHERS as climate interacts with the design features of a building to determine the amount of heating or cooling needed to keep the house comfortable.

The more accurate the climate data, the better the information supplied to inform the buildings design features.

Because the new climate files have the potential to impact NatHERS ratings inconsistently across Australia, we are recalibrating the star bands to minimise the impact.

The star-bands indicate the amount of energy usage that is associated with each star rating.

The aim of the recalibration is to ensure that no particular home type or design will be disproportionately impacted by the updating of the climate files.

With the recalibration, the majority of current dwelling types will have, on average, no change to their star rating.

Individual dwelling designs may show a small increase or decrease to their existing star rating, but the level of impact is well within the range of normal ‘fine tuning’ that is expected when moving standard house designs between locations.

The ABCB Standard/NCC standard that sets out the NatHERS split heating and cooling load limits will be updated for NCC 2022.

This is being done to provide appropriate load limits for 7 star houses, to support the proposed change in the NCC to lift the minimum energy-efficiency requirements from 6 to 7 stars.

The load limits are also being adjusted to reflect the changes to NatHERS star bands.

The split loads will be updated using the same principle, whereby they aim to exclude houses with the worst 5% of heating and cooling loads, based on the historical data recorded in the Australian Housing Data portal.

NatHERS is also making some adjustments to improve awareness and accessibility of the Standard for assessors and certifiers at key stages of the building design and approval process.

The NatHERS software will be modified to lookup the relevant load limit in the Standard and alert assessors when a design is not meeting the requirements.

The NatHERS Certificate will also be modified to show the relevant NCC split load limits next to the predicted heating and cooling loads of the rating.

This approach will allow users of the Certificate, such as building certifiers, to quickly assess whether the NCC load limits have been met, while also allowing them to consider local variations.

The ABCB has proposed changes to the thermal bridging requirements for residential buildings, as thermal bridging can significantly reduce the effectiveness of insulation if not accounted for.

Thermal bridging is the movement of heat across an object that is more conductive than the materials around it.

For example, the frame behind a gyprock interior wall could form a thermal bridge for heat to move through the wall cavity.

Both timber and steel framing can be a thermal bridge. However, as steel is more conductive than timber, the effect is more pronounced with steel frames.

The proposed provision prescribes that metal framed construction should match the thermal performance of timber framed construction in energy rating calculations.

NatHERS has worked with CSIRO to develop a thermal bridging capability that aligns with the proposed NCC requirements.

It will not apply to timber framed construction.

For steel framed construction, only the thermal bridging impact that is over and above the impact that timber would have, will be shown.

This additional thermal bridging effect of steel can be managed by building in additional energy efficiency measures to offset the thermal bridging effect.

The impact of introducing this approach to thermal bridging is expected to be up to 0.5 of a star rating.

If the proposed thermal bridging provisions are adopted in the NCC, NatHERS will introduce thermal bridging to regulatory ratings to align with the other compliance pathways in the National Construction Code.

That brings me to the end of the thermal changes. I will now hand over to Jo to talk about the Whole of Home changes.

Thanks Ange.

I’m **Jo Brennan,** and my team is leading the work to expand the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme to support the proposed changes to the NCC

I’ll focus on how the changes support new proposed regulation and introduce you to the new NatHERS whole of home tools, certificate features and rating.

Under the expanded scheme you will be able to use the NatHERS pathway to demonstrate you meet or exceed the proposed new energy efficiency requirements in the National Construction Code.

The NCC is proposing that there will be two performance requirements to meet Deemed to Satisfy compliance for residential buildings: Thermal Performance Ratings – which are being updated to align with the proposed shift from 6 to 7 stars, AND the new Whole of Home Performance Ratings.

Firstly you can show you have met or exceeded the proposed 7 star thermal performance rating (H6P1) using NatHERS accredited tools.

Then you can move on to complete the whole of home assessment which will provide information about the energy performance of: Heating and cooling appliances, hot water systems, lighting, pool and spa pumps, solar PV and batteries.

This assessment produces a new whole of home rating to demonstrate whether you have met or exceeded the proposed new energy usage budget under the NCC (H6P2)

One of the other features of the NatHERS pathway is the ability to get benefits for going beyond a minimum thermal shell.

So, if you have exceeded the 7 star rating, say with a 8 or 9 star thermal shell, the reduced thermal load will be reflected in your whole of home assessment.

This is a more nuanced approach than can be offered under the ‘Deemed To Satisfy’ elemental pathway which is necessarily designed to be simple.

Whole of Home assessments will leverage and expand on the key elements of the current Scheme and build upon the Thermal Performance ratings.

NatHERS aims to deliver a simple, robust and streamlined approach to demonstrating compliance.

The new ratings also support industry and consumers to design and build homes beyond minimum standards by showing a range of ratings, from just above minimum levels right up to world leading energy efficient homes.

Building on the approach for thermal assessments, new Whole of Home ratings will provide robust and flexible guidance to help industry adjust to the proposed new regulatory requirements of the National Construction Code, and help to meet consumer demand for energy efficient houses.

Whole of Home assessments will leverage and expand on the key elements of the current Scheme by delivering: Accreditation of software tools, Accreditation of NatHERS assessors through Assessor Accrediting Organisations, AND Communication materials.

You will be able to use the Whole of Home performance rating - which will be reflected on Page 1 of the Certificate and will be rated from 0 to 100 to:

Design beyond minimum standards by showing a range of ratings, from just above minimum levels right up to world leading energy efficient homes.

Design and build homes that have little to no energy bills.

Compare the performance of different home designs when building a new home or buying or renting an existing home, AND find the best design suited to the climate, residential block and needs of the homeowner.

Appliance choice can be an easy way to improve a home’s energy rating, make it more comfortable to live in and save on energy bills.

Heating and cooling accounts for 40% of household energy use, making it the largest energy user in the average Australian home.

Hot water systems use around 21%, lighting around 6% and other appliances and equipment are responsible for around 33% of the home’s energy use.

We have developed a suite of national calculation methodologies in partnership with industry and based on best available science and data that model the energy load of each the regulated appliances.

These new methods underpin each of the new whole of home modules in the benchmark tool and are currently available for public comment.

It can be easy to show you meet or exceed the energy budget, with the new NatHERS assessments allowing for consumer choice, and individual preferences in appliance types, technologies and efficiencies.

You can trade between different appliances until you get the right result or offset with solar PV.

Right now there are 4 tools accredited under NatHERS that provide thermal performance star ratings.

Accredited NatHERS Whole of Home tools will be available for use after September 2022, when it is anticipated the proposed changes to the NCC 2022 will come into effect.

A consultation version of the NatHERS Whole of Home Benchmark Tool (AccuRate) is currently available.

It’s been developed by the CSIRO and based on best available science and data.

AccuRate is the Benchmark tool for NatHERS and provides a consistent measurement for other energy rating tools when undertaking accreditation.

NatHERS has also endorsed the FirstRate5 Whole of Home Pilot Tool to provide an early indication of another NatHERS accredited tools that may be available in the future.

The consultation versions of AccuRate and FirstRate5 build on the existing software, with added modules for the appliances and on-site energy generation.

The Whole of Home tools allow a wider range of appliance efficiencies and technologies to be assessed, than under the NCC Deemed-to-Satisfy elemental provisions.

You can also trade-off between different technologies and appliance efficiencies

This enables industry to be able to adopt the most cost-effective and tailored solutions to meeting and beating compliance.

It is estimated it will only take assessors an additional 10-15 minutes to undertake the whole of home assessment.

More modules are planned, however those slated to be included in the NCC provisions have been developed as first priority.

You can request access to these consultation versions of tools via the NatHERS website and also view a demonstration of how the assessment works in practice.

In this section I’ll explain some of the proposed new features for the whole of home certificate.

It includes a new whole of home performance rating.

The rating scale ranges from 0 to 100:

0 is low energy performance and 100 world-leading energy efficient homes.

The range in a 0-100 scale allows for high and very high performing homes to be differentiated from those meeting minimum compliance.

NatHERS ratings aim to be easy to understand to reach a broad audience and help to drive above minimum compliance design and building practices.

The scale aims to provide a common score as the ‘Deemed to Satisfy’ rating for NatHERS to demonstrate compliance with the NCC’s proposed energy usage budget.

This is the same simple approach as the current 6-star DTS provision for NatHERS in the NCC.

The certificate also includes new information about the predicted energy use, cost and greenhouse gas emissions

It will help consumers to understand what appliances have the biggest impact on their home’s annual energy use, cost and greenhouse gas emissions.

New information will also be available about how much of the homes annual electricity use will be met by renewable energy.

The certificate includes the percentage of electricity used by the home and exported to the electricity grid.

You can also see how the home performs with and without solar.

The certificate includes an expanded checklist for checking the home is designed and then built according to building plan used for the NatHERS ratings

Designers, builders, building certifiers/surveyors and homeowners can use the checklist throughout each stage of the home’s design and build to ensure the home includes the key features from the design process.

We have included new schedules for appliances, onsite renewable energy and battery systems.

These schedules include detailed information about the appliances that has been entered by the assessor to create the NatHERS ratings.

There are examples of class 1 and class 2 certificates and a guide to the new certificate available for public comment on the consultation website.

The changes to NatHERS present a range of opportunities for industry

It supports a choice of tools with an open market allowing software developers to apply for accreditation

Assessors can choose the tool that best suits their requirements and client preferences.

NatHERS provides a range of guidance, technical notes and handbooks to support assessors.

The Whole of Home Technical Note will provide assessors with the information and rules they must follow when undertaking a NatHERS Whole of Home assessment.

We are also developing training to support industry with the transition to whole of home assessments.

It supports a range of programs, including the National Construction Code and green loan products being offered by finance institutions who are offering lower interest rates for above minimum standard ratings on new homes.

The NatHERS tools help builders, designers and consumers maximise their choices in designing an energy-efficient home.

The expansion of NatHERS Whole of Home creates a pathway for the future of bespoke and volume builds across Australia.

Increased consumer awareness in the benefits of sustainable, healthy homes has seen a marked uptake in demand for homes that provide comfortable, cost effective and energy efficient residencies.

With demand for sustainable and cost effective homes rising the whole-of-home tools provides a robust framework for industry to be able to adjust to consumer demand and meet these supply needs effectively.

The framework will continue to support industry in their ability to meet and exceed the new minimum compliance standards.

There have been, and will continue to be, growth and opportunities in the building sector in new and emerging markets that demand more energy efficient technology and practices.

The proposed changes to the NCC and the NatHERS whole-of-home expansion prepare us for the buildings of the future.

So I’m going to cover off now what NatHERS In Home is and these are the five key points I will cover.

The first one is that NatHERS In Home is designed for assessing existing homes as opposed to new homes. NatHERS In Home is an assessment in the home as opposed to using house designs and plans, and so the key difference is you have an assessor walking around your house, so there is different data that can be collected and there is a different process involved.

NatHERS In Home is also building off the NatHERS Thermal and NatHERS Whole of Home so it’s really making sure that the ratings for new buildings that are currently being used, and as talked about previously the extension to the Whole of home, what NatHERS In home is going to do is take all of that, and apply that to existing buildings.

The fourth point, as shown on this slide, is that it will provide a rating but it will also provide information about how you can improve the home and so unlike new homes where you can actually completely re-design a house, for an existing home there is only a limited amount of things you can do so that’s where NatHERS In Home is really focusing on what can you do to improve the energy efficiency of that home.

And the final point, is NatHERS in Home is voluntary so unlike the NatHERS Thermal and Whole of Home which are getting used for National Construction Code purposes and for regulation, NatHERS In Home is voluntary.

So now I am going to cover how NatHERS In Home is being established. As I mentioned earlier, we are actually building off the NatHERS Thermal and the NatHERS Whole of Home but we’re also leveraging the National Scorecard Initiative which is being managed by Victoria. The National Scorecard Initiative was recently endorsed by NatHERS and the purpose of that is that it has actually been designed for existing homes and it’s been trialled and piloted across the country and so it really is fit for purpose at this point and so NatHERS is leveraging that, it’s going to phase it in but there will be some changes to the National Scorecard Initiative as NatHERS In Home gets established because we are as I mentioned building off the Thermal and Whole of Home and as you will have heard previously that the Whole of Home rating is still being finalised and so once all of that gets finalised, NatHERS In Home will be finalised and the Scorecard Initiative will be adjusted as appropriate.

What the aim for NatHERS In Home is going to be is that we will then transition to open the market up to other tools so that a range of tools can be accredited, similar to how NatHERS currently works where different tools are designed appropriate for the different users and the way they want to use those tools, and so a similar thing will happen with NatHERS In Home.

Finally NatHERS In Home is actually, as part of the Scorecard Initiative rolling out assessor training and accreditation at the moment. And the intention is that those people who are getting trained and assessed and accredited at the moment will actually be transitioned into NatHERS In Home and they will be deemed NatHERS In Home assessors once that transitions across. There is a whole process that is happening over time and that will be phased in.

So now I will just cover briefly what the NatHERS In Home certificate will cover. As I mentioned it will be building off the NatHERS Thermal and Whole of Home so it’ll actually have a rating similar to what the NatHERS Whole of Home is a zero to 100 scale at this stage. It’ll cover information similar to NatHERS Whole of Home which will be the appliances, the renewable energy and the batteries and give you information about the thermal performance of the home. But where it’ll differ from the NatHERS Whole of Home is it will be a different colour and the reason for that is that we really want to differentiate the fact that this is an in home assessment as opposed to an assessment that’s building off plans and building off the design of the home. We will have a different layout, so we’re really designing this for householders and making sure that householders understand the information as opposed to being used for regulatory purposes where certifiers and different people are using it for the certification reasons. The other thing is that we will be having the information about how to improve the home so that will be slightly different to the other NatHERS certificates.

And we are looking at incorporating, as shown on this slide, a thermal comfort rating and so it’s really how comfortable is that home during the hot weather or the cold weather and in those extremes and we want to indicate that because that becomes really important for existing homes as to how comfortable they are, and because it’s much harder to change the thermal performance of the building we really want to indicate when people are trying to decide between two homes what the thermal comfort will be for them.

Now I’ll cover what the benefits of NatHERS In Home is going to provide.

Firstly, it does provide a comparable and reliable rating for existing homes as considering there is up to nine million existing homes in Australia, it’s really important that we actually have a rating and assessment system that gives people the information that’s not readily available for them to see when they walk into a building.

It’s also going to provide information to help householders improve their home and decide when they’re buying, building or renovating whether the home’s the sort of home that they want, or the sort of improvements they can do to that home if they choose to.

It’ll also increase consumer awareness about sustainable and healthy homes and also the energy cost savings for people to understand what they can do to improve the performance of their home and their lifestyles.

It’ll also help householders know how to save energy and how to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and make their home more comfortable, which I think most people do want a comfortable home.

And finally, and quite importantly it does provide a foundation for enabling other policies to be implemented and there are a range of other initiatives in the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings this is being rolled out and this In Home assessment can really support and enable those ratings to support those other initiatives. So there’s lots of benefits to NatHERS In Home.

Now finally, I'll just cover the NatHERS development timeline, and this covers off on all of the things that you've heard in this session earlier. As you can see, we've got the three work streams, so at the top is the NatHERS Whole of Home. It has gone through the development phase, and it has moved into that establishment phase, and as you can see in early 2022 we are moving that into the release phase, so the intent is that NatHERS Whole of Home will be released early next year and then by September, when the National Construction Code comes into play, it’ll be operational at that point in time.

NatHERS In Home is on a similar time frame as I mentioned because it will be building off NatHERS Whole of Home it does require that NatHERS Whole of Home to be finished before it can finalize all the processes that it needs to do. But we are trying to keep them as much as possible in line so that they’re actually being operationalized at a similar point in time. And as you can see on this slide, we've also got the National Scorecard Initiative and as indicated here, it is being used to inform that NatHERS In Home process all along the way, and the intention is that once the NatHERS In home processes and requirements are all finalised, the NatHERS Scorecard tool will then be accredited and so it will go through that accreditation process such it'll be incorporated under NatHERS In Home and it'll be one of the tools that operate under NatHERS In Home, similar to how the various tools operate under NatHERS Thermal at the moment.

So if you've got any further questions, there's some email addresses here that you can contact us. We're now going to move to the Q&A session.

You will all be aware that the NatHERS public consultation and survey launched on Wednesday of last week. This will run for five weeks until the 16th of December.

This session, along with the Q&A we’re about to begin is a chance for you to learn more about the proposed changes. Before you take the survey or upload a submission.

As I noted previously, if you wish to submit a question, please do so using the chat function.

If for some reason you cannot access the chat function then please email your questions to admin@nathers.gov.au that's admin@nathers.gov.au and our team will ensure they are included in the mix.

**Angela, Jodie** and **Jo** will now answer your questions and there will also be responses coming in via the chat, so please keep an eye on that as well.

**We’ll now move into the Q&A. I might kick off with one question that was previously emailed to us, and it’s a question for Angela. Why are separate split load limits necessary?**

Ah, so split loads, you'll be familiar with the fact that the National Construction Code sets minimum energy efficiency performance requirements, for most places of Australia that's a six star energy rating, which refers to the total amount of energy expected to be needed to keep a home comfortable. But what the national construction code also requires is that when that total amount of energy is separated into the amount for heating and the amount for cooling, that the heating load and the cooling load are to comply with particular limits that are set out in a separate standard, the ABCB standard for NatHERS heating and cooling load limits. And so the objective of that that standard is to ensure that you don't have a house that might meet its minimum total energy performance requirements, so might meet the six stars, but the majority of that energy is required primarily for heating, or conversely primarily for cooling. That would denote a house that is not well designed for its location.

So the ABCB standard is created to exclude those houses that that might meet the total energy minimum performance requirements, but is either too hot or too cold, so it excludes the houses with the worst 5 per cent of heating loads, or the worst 5 per cent of cooling loads. And as usual the regulatory requirements are set by the Australian Building Codes Board and set out in the National Construction Code, NatHERS is the measuring tape so we show the total energy performance in terms of their star rating on our certificate, and we also show those split loads. How much of that is required for heating and how much for cooling, and the new change that we're implementing is that we will also now include on the certificate, not just what those heating and cooling loads are, but what are those National Construction Code limits set out in that standard to make that process easier. I hope that answers the question.

Thanks, **Angela**. Just before we move to the next question, just a note that the Q&A session is being recorded.

Next question is for **Jodie**.

**It'll be great to implement the In Home assessment into the documentation when buying or selling houses. Has this been considered? Are there any conversations with government to promote energy efficiency changes?**

Thanks **Pete** and thanks, Pamela.

There have been quite a few conversations of late with governments, and that's with the Commonwealth government as well as state and territory governments considering disclosure of energy efficiency and so a national framework for the energy efficiency information disclosure is currently drafted, and it's going through a government process at the moment. We have been engaging with some industry stakeholders and it really is about making sure that people have the information when they're buying, selling, or renovating or renting a home. So there is work underway and hopefully soon we'll be able to release the draft document that will provide more information and more states may be called to engage on that. So stay tuned.

Thanks **Jodie.**

OK, next question is for **Angela** from Max Rafferty. **Regarding the change to the climate files will a seven star house before that change remain a seven star house after that change?**
I’ll just unmute myself. Thank you Max it's a very good question. So the recalibration of the star bands has resulted in houses that are designed for six stars to have no change. In fact, what the recalibration means is that for the higher stars, so seven and above, it will actually be a little bit easier just the way the recalibration has fallen with this approach, it will be a little bit easier to reach a seven star house. So that is set out in our thermal summary, which is on our website, which has the whole climate file recalibration report there. But in short, regarding the change to the climate files, will a seven star house remain a seven star House? So a seven star house will become, that's already got a seven star rating will actually have a slightly higher star rating and it will become slightly easier to achieve a new rating of seven stars for a new house that's being designed.

Thanks, **Angela**. Next question is for **Jo** and **Jodie**.

**What will be the qualifications and training required for assessors undertaking Whole of Home assessments and In Home assessments?**

Thanks Pete, I might start with that one and I'll hand to Jodie to talk about the In Home, but in terms of Whole of Home as I briefly mentioned in the webinar, Whole of Home is really building on the existing scheme, so we'll be building on the existing process for training and accreditation of NatHERS assessors. So current NatHERS accredited assessors with a Certificate four will be able to undertake continuing professional development units in order to be recognized for competency and whole of home assessments.

And in terms of the process for new assessors entering the market, who are looking to become either a thermal or whole home assessor, they'll need to undertake those appropriate certificate four qualifications and we're currently looking at if there are any changes needed under that current certificate four. And I'll hand over to **Jodie** to talk a little bit about the In Home process.

Thanks **Jo**.

With regards to the In Home process we're actually going through a skills assessment process and considering what are the skills that are needed for an In Home assessor. We're looking at what the current training and requirements are for the Scorecard Initiative and so we're using that as the basis for a lot of the conversations around skills, but we're also looking at what are the skills required of NatHERS assessors, and we're basically, by doing all of that analysis we’ll come back with here’s the skills that are needed and whether that's a certificate four or what the unit requirements are, all of that's being discussed at the moment, and once we know more of those details we can actually then come out and more broadly engage with industry, once it’s at that next stage. And I think there is an additional question that's related to that last point I made. So sorry, **Pete**, I won't jump in.

It's OK **Jodie**.

You might have covered a bit of this already, but we had an additional question.

**Will Scorecard Assessor be accredited to do NatHERS In Home assessment? Will they need any additional training? And when will they be informed of these arrangements?**

So in terms of the Scorecard assessors we are intending that they will transition into the NatHERS In Home until we've finalised exactly what those skills are we won't know how much upskilling or if any upskilling's needed.

At this stage we do think that there will be some upskilling as, you know, the tools are modified or as the process is modified slightly there will be continuing professional development course likely to be required to just upskill, but we don't see that it's going to be fundamentally changed because we are leveraging all of the work that the Scorecard team has been doing.

In terms of when the assessors and when those stakeholders will be informed of those processes, it's really at the appropriate times once we're a bit more settled on what those skills and requirements are. In terms of the transition, we do see that happening over the next sort of 12 to 18 months to two years so because it's not underpinning regulation at this point in time, we do see that their unlike the Whole of Home changes, we do have some time, so we really do want to make sure that there's a sufficient transition for industry.

So, as we finalise these things, we will be coming back out, engaging with stakeholders and ensuring that there's sufficient transition times so that, Scorecard assessors now can transition and we can start to have new assessors come on board once all those things are settled.

Thanks **Jodie**. We have an email question for **Jo**.

**Just wondering if you can tell me if there will be any changes in the requirements for NatHERS assessors to be accredited, i.e. a coloured certificate for compliance with NCC 2022, or will non-accredited assessors still be able to be used by consumers to give evidence of compliance with the NCC?**

Thanks for that question.

So, the Whole of Home is building on the current approach. We won't be introducing any restrictions on accreditation requirements for assessors as part of the change to Whole of Home so the existing process for assessors being able to use the tools and create certificates whether that's creating an accredited certificate or in the case of non-accredited assessors [inaudible]. So there won’t be any changes there.

Thanks **Jo**. Got another one for you.
 **Will NatHERS Whole of Home be applicable in New South Wales since they are governed by BASIX?**

Thanks for that question. So I think that was Steve. Thanks Steve. So look NSW will continue to use BASIX to satisfy those energy efficiency requirements for the NCC. Those reforms are currently under review and I think you can probably go to the website actually there's been something released very recently on the proposed changes to BASIX to align with those proposed changes to the NCC, so I'd encourage you to do that. So yes, at this stage BASIX is continuing to be the system used for New South Wales.

I will just say, sorry, in addition to that we do work closely with New South Wales around the alignment and obviously with the NCC being the overarching process. All of us are working to align with that. So in terms of alignment there is, you know that process to align.

Thanks **Jo**. Next one’s for **Angela.

Is a clear transition arrangement proposed for Whole of Home seven stars regarding the NCC? How do you see this panning out**?

I'll share this one with **Jo** in terms of the Whole of Home content. I mean, I think it's sort of basically sort of yet to be decided by jurisdictions as to how it will all transition. The shift from 7 stars is ready, the NatHERS is ready to do that. The Whole of Home, **Jo** did you want to talk about the Whole of Home and that transition?

Yeah, so look ultimately all those decisions for uptake will be made through the Australian Building Codes Board and the associated decision making processes, there's been a consultation RIS out on the proposed changes so you know there's still a number of decisions yet to be made there ultimately NatHERS is ready to go. We're still refining some elements and you'll probably hear more detail about that in the technical session and obviously through the consultation we are very much seeking your input at this point so that we can build in any refinements before we need to be ready for the September 2022 point when it's anticipated those changes would come into effect. So we work very closely through the Australian Building Codes Board and through those processes to ensure that we are keeping in alignment and able to demonstrate a nice, streamlined compliance with those provisions.

Thanks **Jo**, I note that Mike Dodd’s put some information in chat about that as well.

We’ve just had one that came through from David. So I’ll just put it out to the panellists.

**Comment please on the apartment sector, there will be some apartment developments to which the whole of home assessment cannot be applied, understandably centralized certain services rather than single services per apartment, but what current or additional analysis is underway for Class 2 and especially more vertical development in CBD settings?**
OK sorry, I'm just digesting that question. So yes. So in terms of some apartment developments to which the Whole of Home assessment cannot be applied yes, the issue of centralized services. So in terms of the work around centralized services, we do have that on our forward work plan, and we will be looking at that issue early next year. That's not currently part of the suite of technical documents that are available for comment although we do have methods, which are really exciting methods on hot water calculations so we welcome you to have a look at those. Thanks David. But yes, centralized services is on the work plan, but not available yet, so that hopefully answers your question there.

In terms of Class 2, I think you know that's probably our most pressing issue is really about the you know, how do we deal with centralized services but you know, we continue to work through any specific Class 2 issues and we'd certainly be welcoming any feedback as part of this current consultation.Anything specific we really should be looking at for the next phase of work.

Thanks **Jo**.

Do we have any more questions? Please put them in the chat if you've got questions while we've got the panellists here.

**Will external removable shading and internal pelmets and appropriate drapes be able to be assessed within new process?**

So external removable shading and internal pelmets and appropriate drapes so that is not part of the new Whole of Home, so there's no changes to that in terms of the thermal component associated with the changes that we're talking about today. So the elements that we already have in in thermal for that, are, you know, unchanged. Although we do continually improve NatHERS and add new materials when appropriate, when new products come onto the market. We have a process for adding new materials to the NatHERS library.

Thanks **Angela.** Next question is for **Jodie**.

**When will I be able to get an In Home assessment?**

So at the moment the National Scorecard initiative is endorsed by NatHERS so you can currently get an In Home assessment right now, and then the plan is that will transition into an NatHERS In Home accredited process, potentially, sort of mid next year to the end of next year at this stage. But that timeline may change. At the moment you can get an In Home assessment through the National Scorecard Initiative and details are on the website for that if anyone wants more information.

Thank you **Jodie**. This one’s for **Jo** and **Jodie**.

**Someone is starting their certificate four training. Will they be accredited to do Whole of Home and In Home assessments on completion?**

I can start with that one. Thanks **Pete**, and thanks for that question. It's a good one. So in terms of anyone coming out of a cert four currently, the steps required to become a Whole of Home assessor would be to do a few continuing professional development units in order to sort of get your statement of attainment as a Whole of Home assessor. So, if you've already been accredited as a thermal assessor and that's through getting your certificate four and then getting that NatHERS accreditation, then it's just a matter of some continuing professional development units, and I'm excited to sort of say that we will be releasing the first one of those units, which will be sort of an introductory overview of Whole of Home assessments. It'll give you an introduction to the appliances and selection of appliances and on site energy generation that will kick off early next year, so sign up to our newsletter and we will be releasing details and when that becomes available. Well, what we're really looking for is feedback from assessors around learning needs and an additional modules as part of this consultation. So we really welcome your feedback on that.

And with regards to the In Home component, as I mentioned earlier, we are still in the initial phases of that and because the In Home assessment process does vary a bit from the Whole of Home, we are looking at the moment at the key skills and we are working closely with Artibus who does develop those certificate four and doing those skill assessments and will be working with RTO’s in the New Year to really make sure that we're transitioning the industry as the things are refined and decided. So at the moment we're still in the very early days. Like Jo said, it would be good to hear from people on this call as to any of the thoughts you've got or things we need to take into consideration, because particularly for In Home it is very early stages at the moment, and so there is still a long way to go before we actually land those. So your input now early on would be wonderful so that we can make sure that we can have a smooth a transition as possible.

Thanks, **Jodie**. Another one for **Jodie** and **Jo**.

**How do students keep up to date with updates to the cert four?**
Thanks Pete. Look I'd encourage you to sign up to our newsletter if there are any changes made to those certificate four we'll be sure to announce those through our own communication channels, so I would say that's probably the best bet. And look, we work very closely with the RTO’s on the changes, and we also work with the National Skills Organisation around any potential changes. So yeah, we'll be communicating that as part of our NatHERS communications so sign up for the newsletter.
And I think on that too is just we do work closely with the Assessor Accrediting Organisations so that they're across where things are going as well. So if people have already done cert fours and want to know what different updates are through the AAO’s you can do CPD's, and so everyone kept up to speed both the cert four and others.
Thanks **Jo** and **Jodie** and Claire’s just dropped some information in the chat as well.
So another question from **Jo** and **Jodie**.

**Will the Whole of Home rating correspond to the In Home ratings? Will homes assessed with these two pathways achieve the same or similar scores?**
OK. I’ll start with that one and hand over to **Jodie.** Look you know something we've heard a lot about through the consultation to date. It is that you know industry and consumers are really looking for a consistent way to rate buildings in Australia. So having a consistent approach to Whole of Home ratings on whether they be older buildings or brand new buildings has been seen as a principle, that they would like us to achieve through this process. So we are working hard towards achieving that outcome, I think you know we have still got a little way to go in terms of the technical underpinning work to make that a reality but that's certainly an objective and a goal so that we can deliver on that outcome. And **Jodie** did you want to make any additional comments on that one?

Yeah, I might just add one of the key things to note is that with an In Home assessment because you're walking around the home, if house plans don't exist, and in the case if you're moving from a Whole of Home to an In Home where the plans do exist, there is a potential for them to more closely align. But where house plans don't exist, there will be slight differences because there's more assumptions that are being made in the In Home tools, so we are basically trying to align the two, but noting that because they're using slightly different processes and the way they're assessed will mean that there may be slight differences but we're trying to reduce that as much as possible.

Thank you **Jo** and **Jodie**.

Next question is for the panel.

**Have there been any calculations on how the new tools will help reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions?**

I might take this one to start off with **Pete**. When we did the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings there was a lot of analysis as to the potential for the different initial reason for changes in the greenhouse gas emissions. And so I suppose in that there were some assumptions and it was all about moving towards zero energy and zero carbon ready buildings. So there have been calculations in that sense and again, it's just depending on which star rating or which rating in the Whole of Home that people are choosing to go for will determine as to exactly how many greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced, and there's other factors involved, but the Trajectory did do quite a lot of analysis as to how many greenhouse gas emissions could be saved based on people improving with changes to different initiatives, and with these tools they can. They will indicate as to how much greenhouse gas emissions our homes are using, so that's where all of that can feed in over time with the data that we get, and particularly as we see at the moment in the Australian Housing Data Portal that captures a lot of the NatHERS data over time, when we get all of these new and particularly the Whole of Home in the greenhouse gas emission component of that will be able to track that in much more detail as we go forward as well.

Yeah look, I might just add to that as well I think it’s a really exciting development that we will be providing that additional information for homeowners to really see that greenhouse gas footprint, not only the footprint, but sort of what the difference is with the home, you know, with and without solar contributing to the overall footprint. So I think there's some really great information there that will be available under the new Whole of Home expansion for new builds to help consumers make those decisions.

And as **Jodie** said, that all then gets fed through into the data portal, which is a great in a national consistent data portal. So really exciting developments there and we are really interested in your views on whether what we're proposing to release as part of Whole of Home is really what you want to see, where they're in industry, or whether you're a consumer. What would you really want to say on this new certificate? So I really encourage you to put your views in on that.

OK, it looks like no more questions.

OK so yeah, thanks to our panellists and I think we've covered all the questions, so we might just begin to wrap up just before we sign off, I would like to remind everyone to take the survey or make a submission. We need your feedback to help shape the very important changes we are making to NatHERS.

Also, please sign up for our newsletter. We will be keeping everyone updated on the outcomes of the consultation via our news updates and the website.

If you would like to dive more deeply into the technical aspects of the changes, then don't forget to register for the last information session which will be on Monday the 22nd of November.

If you have any outstanding questions please email us at: admin@naters.gov, that’s admin@nathers.gov.au

Thanks again for taking the time to join us today for this webinar, and thanks again to the panellists for answering your questions.