NatHERS expansion - sample news article 1

**Keeping the community comfortable while helping with the cost of living**

Updates to the National Construction Code (NCC) minimum energy efficiency requirements will help new homeowners save an average of $183 on their power bills every year while making homes more comfortable.

In August 2022, Building and Energy Ministers from across Australia agreed to the new NCC energy efficiency provisions.

The updates will increase the minimum level of thermal performance from 6 to the equivalent of 7 stars under the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS).

In addition, the updates introduce a new a whole-of-home annual energy use budget applicable to the home’s heating and cooling equipment, hot water systems, lighting, swimming pool and spa pumps and onsite renewable energy systems (such as rooftop photovoltaics - PV).

NatHERS software is being upgraded to support the new NCC. This will help consumers make better decisions about the energy efficiency of their home and appliances, and to help design low energy use homes – supporting Australia’s move to net zero emissions by 2050.

The Decision Regulatory Impact Statement (DRIS) for the NCC changes, available from the Australian Building Construction Board, estimates:

* On average, home energy bill savings of $183 annually across jurisdictions
* Greenhouse gas abatement of 4.3Mt CO2-e from 2022-2030
* A household level benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.37 (after accounting for increased construction costs).

Energy efficiency changes to the Code are voluntary from 1 October 2022, with a transition period until 1 October 2023 (but may vary by state and territory).

The measures ensure we are building energy efficient homes for the future.