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## Guideline for accessing and using NatHERS climate files

December 2022

### Introduction

The Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (**NatHERS**) provides reliable home energy ratings and information to improve the comfort, design and energy efficiency of homes and apartments. NatHERS has two ratings: a thermal rating (out of 10 stars) that rates the energy efficiency of a home and a 'Whole of Home' rating (0-100) that measures the energy use of the whole home including appliances, solar and batteries.

Site-specific climate files are built into the calculation engine of all NatHERS accredited software. These are important for calculating the thermal performance of homes modelled with the software. NatHERS climate files are based on Australian weather records from the Bureau of Meteorology and are updated regularly.

### Application Process

You can apply to the NatHERS Administrator for access to NatHERS climate files for research purposes. The Administrator will not provide the files for commercial use. Commercial use includes, but is not limited to, any use directly or indirectly in connection with any business, or other entity, intended for profit.

To apply for access to NatHERS climate files for research purposes, please submit a request to the NatHERS Administrator by email to [Admin@nathers.gov.au](mailto:Admin@nathers.gov.au) with the subject 'Application for Access to NatHERS climate files' and include the following information:

1. Your contact details including name, job title, research institute or organisation, phone number, mailing address and email;
2. Background on your institution or research organisation and contact address and phone number;
3. A description of the research that the climate files will support and how the files will be used;
4. Specific details of the climate zone number and name of climate files requested (e.g. a single zone, for one state/territory, the most recent files, etc.); and
5. A statement that you acknowledge and agree to comply with the conditions of use set out in these Guidelines, and any other additional conditions relating to your use that are specified by the NatHERS Administrator, should you be granted access to the files.

Your request for access to the NatHERS climate files will be considered by the NatHERS Administrator and you will receive a response by email. The NatHERS Administrator may seek advice from its Steering Committee or other third parties before providing access. The NatHERS Administrator may, at their discretion, refuse your request.

### Conditions on the use of NatHERS climate files

If you are granted access to use NatHERS climate files, you agree to the following conditions relating to your use of the files:

1. You acknowledge that, although reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the NatHERS climate files provided to you are correct, the Commonwealth of Australia does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the files and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on, the files.
2. You must not tamper or modify the NatHERS climate files in any way.
3. You must not provide the NatHERS climate files to any third party, without the written consent of the NatHERS Administrator. However, you will not be taken to be in breach of this condition if you provide the NatHERS climate files to your professional advisers or employees in order to comply with the conditions on your use of the files; or as authorised or required by Law.
4. You must use the NatHERS climate files for the research purposes stated in your application for access and not for any other purpose, including but not limited to, commercial purposes.
5. You acknowledge that the NatHERS climate files remain the intellectual property of the Commonwealth of Australia and your use will not infringe or be inconsistent with the Commonwealth of Australia's intellectual property rights in the NatHERS climate files.
6. It is your responsibility to be aware of, and comply with, the laws that may apply in your jurisdiction with respect to your use of the NatHERS climate files.
7. You must include the following acknowledgements of your use of the NatHERS climate files in any publications, presentations or communications using the files:

**<Entity name>** acknowledges the permission of the Commonwealth of Australia to access and use Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme Climate Files in the preparation of this **<Insert report, publication etc>**; and

  - a. 'NatHERS Climate Files for **[Insert details of files, e.g. CZ number, name and version date]**, Commonwealth of Australia'.
8. You must comply with any additional conditions or directions that may be attached by the NatHERS Administrator regarding your use of the NatHERS climate files. Any such conditions will prevail over these conditions, in the case of any inconsistency.
9. The NatHERS Administrator may, at their discretion, revoke your access to the NatHERS climate files, including in the event that you do not comply with these conditions or any additional conditions or directions.
10. If requested, you must provide to the NatHERS Administrator evidence of your compliance with these conditions and any additional conditions or directions that may be attached by the NatHERS Administrator regarding your use of the NatHERS climate files.
11. You indemnify the Commonwealth of Australia for any and all expenses, costs and liabilities and losses suffered or incurred by the Commonwealth of Australia arising from your use of the NatHERS climate files and any breach by you of these conditions or any additional conditions or directions that may be attached by the NatHERS Administrator regarding your use of the NatHERS climate files.