

## Buildings Energy Efficiency

- Buildings are a core energy efficiency priority for Australia.
  - Australia's National Construction Code (or NCC) sets energy efficiency standards for new housing, multi-unit residential and non-residential buildings. Standards for housing have increased from a 3.5-4 star minimum rating in 2003 to a 6 star minimum rating in 2010.
  - The Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) provides the methodology to estimate and rate the potential thermal performance of residential buildings on a scale from 0 to 10. NatHERS is administered by the Department on behalf of all States and Territories. The NatHERS rating is one of three pathways by which residential buildings can achieve compliance with the NCC. Around 70 per cent of new houses and apartments are currently being rated due to the flexibility it offers to builders.
  - There are three accredited NatHERS tools which all use the Chenath thermal calculation engine developed by CSIRO. The tools are incorporating an upgraded version of Chenath during 2015. The NatHERS Administrator is currently developing a Strategic Plan for NatHERS to guide its work program over the next 4 years. The NatHERS Administrator has recently launched and is implementing actions under a Strategic Plan that will guide its work program to 2018.
  - The Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) programme established by the Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure (BEED) Act 2010, started in 2010, requires most office spaces of more than 2000 square metres to disclose their energy performance when selling or leasing. Since its introduction, the programme has intersected with around a third of Australia's large commercial office stock. The CBD programme is well-supported by industry stakeholders.
  - This light-touch regulatory programme has recently been independently reviewed at the Prime Minister's request. The reviewer, ACIL Allen Consulting, found that the CBD programme is:
    - appropriate, successful and effective;
    - delivers significant benefits at minimal cost to industry and government; and
    - is complementary to a number of other government programmes including the Emissions Reduction Fund.
- The department is currently preparing briefing for the Minister for Industry and Science on the review's recommended outcomes.
- Under the Energy Efficiency in Government Operations (EEGO) Policy, also administered by the department, wherever possible new office leases negotiated by Australian government agencies must incorporate a Green Lease Schedule stipulating achievement of a 4.5 star NABERS Energy rating.