

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY HITS HOME FOR AUSTRALIA'S BUILDING MINISTERS

**Thursday 18 July 2019**

As we strive to reduce Australia's carbon emissions, whilst at the same time tackling rising energy bills, the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) has warmly welcomed the agreement of building ministers across the country to advance energy efficiency provisions for new homes in the National Construction Code.

ASBEC Executive Director Suzanne Toumbourou said more energy efficient homes can deliver more resilience to extreme weather, better comfort and reduce stress on the electricity grid, providing an imperative to act now on improving energy performance.

"The homes built today will still be operating in 2050 – at a time when Australia will need to be at or near net zero emissions." said Ms Toumbourou.

"In setting minimum standards for all new buildings, improved energy efficiency provisions in the National Construction Code can help to ensure new homes are ready to plug into a net zero emissions economy."

ASBEC has worked in partnership with ClimateWorks Australia to produce *Built to Perform - An industry led pathway to a zero carbon ready building code*, which identifies a cost-effective long term pathway for energy requirements in the National Construction Code; providing certainty for the construction industry and savings for householders and businesses.

The Building Ministers' Forum agreement to enhance energy efficiency for residential buildings was informed by the COAG Energy Council's trajectory for low energy buildings, which aligns closely with recommendations in ASBEC and ClimateWorks' *Built to Perform* report.

*Built to Perform* showed that stronger energy standards in the National Construction Code could reduce household energy bills by up to \$900 each year, contributing to up to \$29 billion in reduced energy bills and 78 million tonnes of cumulative emissions savings across the economy by 2050.

A broad alliance of community and consumer groups including the Australian Council of Social Service, CHOICE, the Consumer Action Law Centre, Community Housing Industry Association and Renew has also called for better energy performance standards for housing in the interests of healthier, safer and more affordable homes for all Australians.

"The decision by the Building Ministers' Forum paves the way for energy bill savings, lower emissions and more comfortable and safe Australian homes." said Ms Toumbourou, "It's a long time coming and a very welcome first step. As part of this process, it is important to set out a long term pathway for energy requirements in the National Construction Code, providing a clear policy direction and certainty for industry."

### **Available for comment:**

Suzanne Toumbourou, Executive Director, ASBEC, 0423 407 467

### **Further Information:**

Building Ministers' Forum [Communique July 2019](#)

ASBEC and ClimateWorks [Built to Perform: An Industry Led Pathway to a Zero Carbon Ready Building Code](#)

Consumer and community groups [All Australians deserve a healthy, safe, affordable home](#)



## **About ASBEC**

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) is a collective of leading industry organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia. ASBEC's membership consists of a range of key industry government and academic organisations who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment and who are concerned with the economic, social and environmental performance of the sector.

ASBEC's activities, including research and policy development on built environment issues, are an example of a collaborative, co-ordinated approach undertaken across all segments of the built environment. ASBEC works actively to develop and promote leading practice in the design, planning and operation of our cities, at a building, precinct and citywide scale.