



DRAFT MINUTES

Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Teleconference

Date: 1 March 2016

Time: 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Attendees:

Organisation
Department of Industry Innovation and Science (DIIS)
CSIRO (AccuRate)
NSW Department of Planning and Environment (NSW DPE)
University of Tasmania (UTAS)
University of Adelaide (UniSA)
Building Designers Association of Victoria (BDAV)
Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA)
Sustainability Victoria (SV)
Australian Institute of Architects (AIA)
Master Builders Association (MBA)
Australian Fenestration Rating Council (AFRC)

Apologies:

Organisation
Insulation Australasia (IA)
Energy Inspection (EI)
Department of Housing and Public Works QLD (DHPQLD)

Agenda Item	Attachments
1.0 Introduction and welcome 1.1 Acceptance of previous Minutes 1.2 Action items update	Att A: Minutes 28 October 2015 meeting

<p>2.0 Residential Buildings Policy update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Policy developments including NatHERS Steering Committee changes 2.2 NEEBP update 2.3 BERS Pro accreditation 2.4 NatHERS Strategic Plan update 2.5 Current projects update – CSIRO works and climate file update PIA 2.6 Background on projects currently before the Buildings Committee for consideration in the 2016/17 budget 	<p>Verbal update</p>
<p>3.0 TAC Prioritisation of new work for 2016/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Refer attachments 'B' and 'C' to be discussed 	<p>Att B: Guide to Vote</p> <p>Att C: Voting form</p>
<p>4.0 Other Business</p>	

*

MINUTES

1. Introduction and Welcome

DIIS welcomed attendees to the TAC meeting and introduced the representative from Australian Institute of Architects (AIA). An invitation to the Housing Industry of Australia (HIA) to join the TAC had been sent but no response received.

1.1 Acceptance of Previous Minutes

- DIIS proposed that Minutes would potentially be published on the NatHERS website in the future but can be de-identified to just show the names of organisations. NSW DPE preferred that only organisations be shown and other members did not comment. As no objections raised it was accepted that the Minutes could be published.
- No comments were noted against the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2015 and they were accepted.

Action (1): Minutes of TAC meetings to be de-identified (organisation shown) and published on the NatHERS website.

1.2 Action Items Update

- The action items from the 28 October meeting were reviewed as follows:

1.1 New TAC members and returning TAC members to complete COI forms.

Status - COI forms have been completed.

2.2 NatHERS Administrator to amend first paragraph of ToR to read 'industry, research and governance stakeholders'.

Status - TOR amended.

3.1.2 NatHERS Administrator to follow up with the ABCB regarding a question of when and how it might be appropriate to use NatHERS software to complete the reference building method of compliance with the building code.

Status - DIIS raised the matter of the reference building approach at a meeting with the ABCB. As the reference building approach does not refer to a specific tool people had requested that more guidance was needed. The ABCB have put together guidance and training which should address issues in time.

5.1 NatHERS Administrator to check how other materials are treated in NatHERS and progress inclusion if use of mid-range density values is consistent with the approach used for other materials. Otherwise CSIRO is to complete further research to determine appropriate density values to inform the committee for further discussion.

Status - CSIRO confirmed that the Limestone values are in the mid-range.

Action (2): Limestone values as recommended by the TAC to be sent to the NatHERS Steering Committee for approval for inclusion in the next release of the Chenath engine.

5.2 NatHERS Administrator to circulate the 2015-16 TAC Work Program shortlist of projects and details of the existing CSIRO workplan. TAC members to send feedback on the shortlist to the NatHERS Administrator. TAC members to discuss new work in 2015-16 at their next meeting.

Status - The current work program and voting list was provided and discussed later in the meeting.

6.1 NatHERS Administrator to consider whether any NatHERS related actions to address the insulation issues raised by TAC members with how insulation is being installed compared to how it is modelled in NatHERS software.

Status - A foils update later in the meeting will respond to this action and DIIS noted that other actions would come from the Foils Workshop follow up teleconference to be held on 22 March 2016.

6.2 TAC members interested in being part of the CRC LCL next gen NatHERS project steering committee to contact UniSA. UniSA to send details of next gen NatHERS Project forum to NatHERS Administrator for circulation when they are known.

Status – UniSA provided update later in the meeting.

- ABSA queried why there was no action item under 6.3 Automatic Accreditation Verification in the Universal Certificate Portals of the previous Minutes. DIIS responded that it was the responsibility of the 2 portal owners to verify the currency and accuracy of data. DIIS queried if ABSA and BDAV both have access to the H star portal? CSIRO confirmed they do and that it was dependant on them as to how the data is updated.

2. Residential Buildings and Policy update

2.1 Policy development including NatHERS Steering Committee changes

- DIIS commented on the December COAG announcement of the NEPP and that 3 measures were identified for the residential building stream as follows:
 - (i) Improving the tool – A focus on voluntary disclosure noting efforts of VIC government and CLC Energy fit
 - (ii) NCC advancement - Working through option in 2019 update; build on evidence base; and, option to move to whole-of-house.
 - (iii) Improving compliance – NEEBP underway for some years progressing through Phase 1 and 2. 2 reports have been published. The next Phase 3 has links to the NEPP in relation to compliance.

2.2 NEEBP update

- DIIS commented on NEEBP in Item 2.1

2.3 BERS Pro accreditation

- BERS Pro accreditation is ongoing with an extension provided in late January by the NatHERS Administrator to 1 May. The NatHERS Administrator is working with Energy Inspections to meet the deadline and anticipates that accreditation of the software is very close and hoping to make an announcement soon.
- Assessor certification was discussed in relation to the issues surrounding completion of the Cert IV Qualification. The deadline has been extended to 31 March for completion of the Cert IV otherwise an assessor's qualification will be withdrawn.

2.4 NatHERS Strategic Plan update

- The Strategic Plan was implemented in August 2015 and various action items were discussed.
 - AAO protocol recently updated in discussion with AAO's and soon to be published.
 - Software protocol being updated to create greater transparency and keep flexibility while not impacting on stringency. The timetable and engagement process is generally to be in line with the NCC process.
 - A Governance Review of NatHERS arrangements is to be undertaken with the engagement of a consultant to take place shortly. A key outcome is to identify improvements in the operating model and decision making framework.
 - Other miscellaneous communications activities were discussed such as the NatHERS Newsletter and an update to the NatHERS website. DIIS reiterated that changes might also highlight roles and functions of the TAC (i.e. publish organisation name) for transparency and that the TAC meets quarterly, undertakes product reviews, etc. This will respond to stakeholder feedback previously received by the National Administrator.

2.5 Current projects update – CSIRO works and climate file update Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA)

- DIIS advised that the PIA report was due this week and is to be circulated to the Buildings Committee for comment. It appears that more modelling needs to be undertaken during April to June.
- CSIRO provided an update on their activities regarding new zones with a draft report on proposed new zone types e.g. shared basement carpark and corridors. DIIS is to review the report and determine if it should be circulated to the NatHERS Steering Committee.
- CSIRO advised that some work on the foils will be dependent on the outcome of the Foils Workshop follow up teleconference on 22 March.
- NSW DPE queried that once outcomes are confirmed, would practice notes be provided or how would the outcomes be carried forward? DIIS explained that if a technical fix is required then modelling is undertaken and an Impact PIA provided to stakeholders and the ABCB, who will consider the impact on the NCC. The Buildings Committee then reviews and agrees to potential timing for inclusion into Software.
- NSW DPE queried that apart from the updated Climate file work, would the Zone work, treatment of Foils and other technical improvement work impact on the Chenath Engine results. The response was 'Yes', and a PIA would review the extent of the impact.

Action (3): DIIS to review draft CSIRO report for possible circulation to the NatHERS Steering Committee.

2.6 Update on projects currently before the Buildings Committee for consideration in the 2016/17 budget

- The ABCB have approached the Buildings Committee with a request to split heating and cooling loads in NatHERS Software. The Buildings Committee is looking at how best to do this and there will be a meeting later today on occupancy settings.
- There have been many changes to the Governance arrangements on the Energy Council. No impact on the TAC but the Buildings Committee (under COAG) has now changed to become an Operational and Technical Committee. Issues are being worked through, but the TAC is administered differently while a separate project team will be in place for the NEPP.
- Work on a new climate zone in Maleny QLD is currently underway and further work on other Queensland zones that include coast postcode are being discussed in the Buildings Committee for further funding.
- UniSA provided an update on the CRC LCL and mentioned that delays in negotiating funding agreement (due in part to re-aligning Industry partners in QLD & CSIRO) has resulted in a delay starting on the 3rd Generation NatHERS project, but it will begin shortly.
- UniSA also advised that there are 2 events on consecutive days that TAC members should place in their diaries.
 - 19 April – National Forum on Housing (Adelaide). This will discuss research that can inform and guide regulatory frameworks and is a streamlined activity bringing in key stakeholders. The CRC is hosting and engaging ASBEC. It hopes that DIIS will participate and a program will soon be available.
 - 18 April – CRC 3rd Generation NatHERS kick-off meeting. Hoping many can attend.
- DIIS queried what the work packages are under 3rd Generation NatHERS. UniSA commented that the work is looking at revisiting the assumptions/patterns in current NatHERS as well as on-site generation, an evaluation/monitoring component, and various options in the tool to inform how to reduce energy use in housing.
- NSW DPE commented that it is likely to be a whole-of-house tool and noted that 30% of new housing projects are already subject to this rating tool i.e. BASIX and emphasised that whole-of-house is in use for NSW.
- UniSA noted this and expects a lot of engagement with NSW and there will be a kick off meeting with stakeholders.
- NSW DPE also commented that BASIX is taking part in one of the CRC projects (on consumption) which is on same track and suggested there would be no need to reinvent a new framework but build off a common framework.
- DIIS commented that upcoming forums sound good and provide an opportunity to collaborate and engage from existing frameworks.

3. TAC Prioritisation of new work for 2016/17

3.1 Attachments 'B' and 'C' were discussed:

- The prioritisation of projects for completion in 2016-17 (Attachment C) was further explained and feedback sought from TAC members.
- DIIS advised that the TAC members who raised matters on the listed projects or requested additional projects would be contacted directly following the meeting and the Attachment C updated and sent out to TAC members for voting.

Action (4): NatHERS Administrator to send out updated Attachment C for voting by members.

4. Other Business

- DIIS mentioned that 'Odyssey' whole of house extractor fans had requested inclusion in NatHERS. The technical material provided by the manufacturer will be sent to members and TAC advice sought.
- ABSA had a query regarding slab thickness being recognised by the software and there was nothing for suspended floors or ceilings.
- AIA queried the skylight library project currently underway and when it would be complete as there were limitations on design. CSIRO advised that the AFRC had the project in hand and it was ongoing. DIIS had also sent out a reminder email as it was overdue but is expecting completion soon.
- DIIS encouraged members to think about priorities as the case for funding for TAC budget is to be put forward in the next month or so.

Action (5): ABSA to provide a paper on the slab thickness issue for the next TAC meeting.

Action (6): TAC members to provide advice on the inclusion of extractor fans and similar products into software or whether these products are 'appliances' and therefore currently excluded.

Meeting finished at 3.00 pm.