



Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Our Ref: MN12310-2023

9 November 2023

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +617 3719 7270
E: epw@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
By email: TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to E-Petition No. 3929-23 titled 'Urgent review of the Draft QDC MP 4.1 version 1.4', which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 10 October 2023. I thank the petitioners for their interest in this matter.

The Queensland Government is committed to addressing the impacts of climate change by lowering carbon emissions and achieving its renewable energy targets. The National Construction Code (NCC) aligns with this commitment by improving residential energy efficiency standards for new houses and units and is being adopted in Queensland, partially by amending the Queensland Development Code Mandatory Part 4.1 – Sustainable buildings.

The NCC standards include a new whole-of-home requirement for the energy efficiency of the dwelling's major fixtures and appliances, and any solar photovoltaic energy system. To better support industry, the Queensland Government has delayed commencement of the residential energy efficiency standards in Queensland until 1 May 2024 to provide industry time to better understand the provisions and adapt business practices where necessary.

For assessing the energy efficiency of centralised domestic services (hot water and/or air-conditioning) in new apartment buildings, practitioners can demonstrate compliance for centralised domestic services by using a 'Performance Solution' by modelling for their energy efficiency.

Under the NCC, Verification Using a Reference Building (VURB) has and continues to be a permitted option that may be used to demonstrate compliance for the building shell's energy efficiency. Guidance was previously issued to practitioners to provide clarity and consistency about the methodology for achieving energy equivalence. The Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) understands the Australian Building Codes Board intends to publish additional guidance to support interpretation of energy efficient apartments inclusive of details about the VURB method.

DEPW will monitor implementation of the standards, including working with industry stakeholders, to identify any available evidence and data that may assist in understanding the extent of any potential issues.

I hope this information answers the enquiry from petitioners and I thank them for their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mick de Brenni', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement