




Australian Government  
Department of the Environment,  
Water, Heritage and the Arts



**National Building Energy Standard-Setting,  
Assessment and Rating Framework**  
Presentation to Green Cities Conference, Melbourne 23 February 2010



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Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts




**Outline of the presentation**

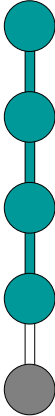
- Overview of National Strategy on Energy Efficiency (NSEE)
- Elements of the Framework
- Next steps
- Key issues being addressed

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## The National Strategy on Energy Efficiency



- **October 2008**
  - **COAG agrees to develop NSEE**
    - To accelerate action on energy efficiency
    - Help community prepare for introduction of CPRS
- **February 2009**
  - **COAG agrees to further improve the energy efficiency of buildings**
    - Signals key measures for buildings - standards and mandatory disclosure
- **April 2009**
  - **COAG Signs MoU on energy efficiency**
    - Releases draft NSEE
- **July 2009**
  - **COAG agrees to NSEE**
    - Signs National Partnership Agreement
- **Ongoing**
  - **Implementation of NSEE measures**

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## NSEE – key themes

- Assisting households and businesses to transition to a low-carbon future
- Reducing impediments to the uptake of energy efficiency
- Making buildings more energy efficient
- Government working in partnership and leading the way



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## Assisting households and businesses to transition to a low-carbon future

- Industry and Business**
  - address market impediments to energy efficiency uptake
- Advice and Education**
  - clear, consistent and credible information on energy efficient products and services
- Skills and Training**
  - development and application of knowledge and skills
- Data**
  - improve data for policy development and evaluation, reporting, and benchmarking



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## Reducing impediments to the uptake of energy efficiency

- Electricity Markets**
  - how electricity markets can support the uptake of distributed generation and demand side initiatives
- Appliances and Equipment**
  - national legislation for MEPS and energy rating labelling
  - broadening the range of products covered
  - increasing the stringency of MEPS for existing products
- Transport Sector**
  - measures to reduce emissions from the transport sector

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## Making buildings more energy efficient

### Commercial buildings

- increase the stringency of energy efficiency provisions
- mandatory disclosure of building energy efficiency
- implement HVAC strategy

### Residential buildings

- mandatory disclosure of building energy efficiency
- minimum 6 star standard for new residential buildings
- incentives for energy efficiency improvements
- information on energy efficient housing options

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## A new national building energy standard-setting, assessment and rating framework

What NSEE said:

- outcomes-based
- cover both residential and commercial buildings
- apply to new and existing buildings (including working with mandatory disclosure schemes)
- cover the building envelope and key building services
- capable of extension over time to cover broader sustainability elements – including greenhouse gas emissions and water management



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## Standard-setting

- set increasingly stringent minimum performance standards over time for new building work
- use the BCA as the mechanism for implementation
- allow innovation in meeting defined performance standards
- consider how building performance can be maintained through commissioning, operation and maintenance
- facilitate effective monitoring and compliance



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## Assessment and rating of buildings

- convergence of measurement tools of existing buildings with modelling tools for new buildings
- common measurement and reporting metrics to underpin standard setting and performance assessment
- use of star ratings
- accounting for climatic variation
- providing for a market in rating tools



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## Governance arrangements (interim)

- Framework measure assigned to Senior Officials Group on Energy Efficiency (SOG-EE) which reports directly to COAG
- SOG-EE has established a Building Framework Subgroup of jurisdictional representatives chaired by DEWHA



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## Timeframe

- Public discussion paper on the Framework early 2010
- Framework to COAG end 2010
- Implementation commencing in 2011
- Staged implementation till 2020
- Ongoing review built into Framework



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## Public Discussion Paper

- To seek stakeholder views on what should be in the Framework:
  - the range of issues to be addressed
  - options for addressing these issues
- To be released by SOG-EE for public consultation soon



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## A preview of key points for discussion

- The performance outcomes of the Framework:
  - environmental outcomes to be included
  - setting a pathway for increased stringency
- Assessment and rating of buildings:
  - measurement metrics
  - rating scales
  - incorporation in the BCA
- Governance of rating schemes and assessors



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## Outcomes for the framework – possible options

1. Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (relative to current average/standards)?
2. Improvement in energy efficiency/ reduction in grid energy use?
3. A combined outcome? e.g. a reduction in emissions to be achieved firstly through energy efficiency and secondly through on-site low and zero emission energy?
4. Different outcomes for different building classifications?



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## Setting a pathway – possible options

1. Specified review points (e.g. 3 yearly) to consider changes to the BCA, with details to be determined at that time.
2. BCA upgrades could be announced two or three years in advance of the actual change to the BCA.

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## Rating tools – some issues

- Consistency in rating schemes across commercial and residential buildings
- Consistency of ratings across new and existing buildings (for mandatory disclosure)
- Components to be included in building ratings, eg building shell, built-in equipment and appliances, on-site energy generation?
- Rating scales and normalisation approaches
- Accounting for climate variation

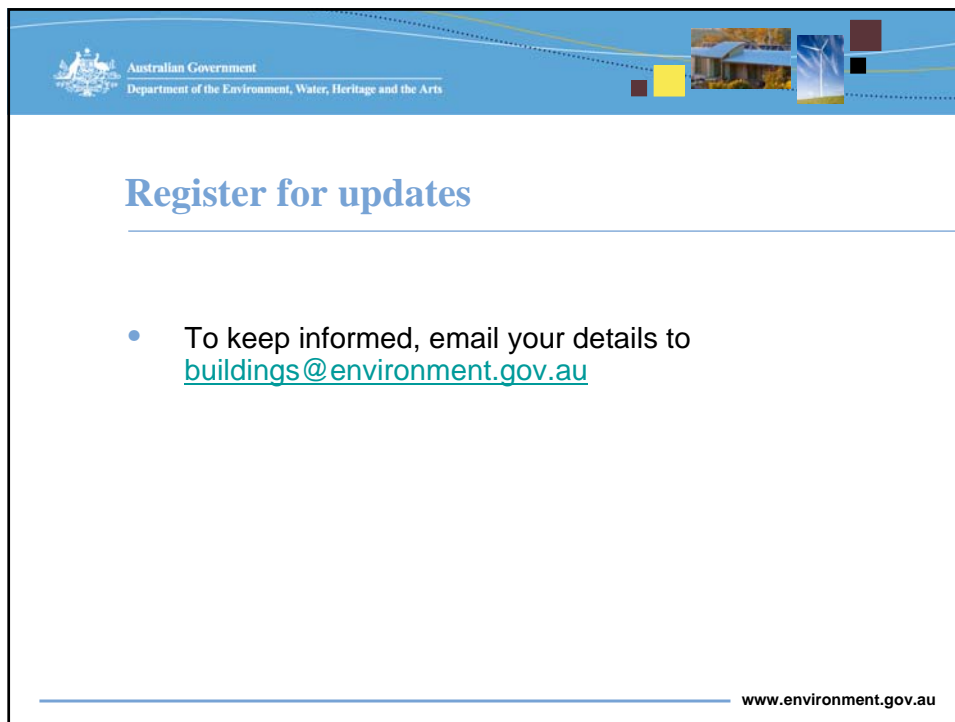
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## Governance of rating schemes

- Allowing for a market for rating tools
  - maintaining quality and consistency
  - accreditation of tools
- Accreditation of assessors
- Monitoring and evaluation

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