

## APHA MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, November 27, 2020

### BASIX recognises Passive House pathway

The Australian Passive House Association (APHA) today advises that BASIX now recognises the Passive House Standard as a pathway to meeting the thermal comfort requirements of the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy

The Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) is one of Australia's strongest sustainable planning measures and has been required in NSW since 2004. It requires all projects to meet requirements for energy, thermal comfort and water with the aim of encouraging sustainable residential development.

The Thermal comfort section of BASIX aims to:

- ensure thermal comfort for a dwelling's occupants, appropriate to the climate and season.
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions from artificial cooling and heating through good building design and use of appropriate construction materials; and
- reduce the demand for new, or upgraded, energy infrastructure by managing peak demand for energy required for cooling and heating.

Until now, all projects seeking approval in New South Wales were required to either use NatHERS or the BASIX DIY tool to prove that their design would achieve the thermal comfort requirements of BASIX.

The removal of this cost impost of Passive House projects having to undertake modelling in multiple software packages is a win for designers and consumers.

APHA CEO Paul Wall welcomes this news saying "This is further indication of the awareness and trust the Passive House standard is gaining in Australia, as people start to fully understand the positive effects to their wellbeing of a healthy and comfortable indoor environment. The broader environmental benefits, with lower emissions and reduced running costs, contribute to better outcomes for society and we applaud the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for its vision, and ability to identify and implement these changes."

We see positive regulation like this helping APHA deliver on its vision that '*All Australians live and work in healthy, comfortable, low energy, resilient buildings*', and our mission to '*Lead change by educating, promoting, and supporting the delivery of Certified Passive House buildings in Australia.*'

The application of Passive House (aka passivhaus in German) Certification in Australia is growing. In addition to single residential dwellings, we are now seeing Passive House Certification being sought in larger buildings and expect this trend to grow.

The future of Passive House in Australia is bright. Passive House Certification is a well-established design and construction method that delivers high quality, comfortable, healthy, low energy, and resilient buildings. It can be applied in all climate zones and all building types.

To find out more about the Australian Passive House Association visit <https://passivehouseaustralia.org/>

The Australian Passive House Association is an independent, not-for-profit organisation which aims to promote Passive House principles as a way of providing superior indoor comfort and air quality while reducing energy use and carbon emissions from Australia's buildings.

Passive House (or PassivHaus) was originally developed in Germany and has since spread throughout Europe. The standard continues to evolve and is now finding popularity in diverse climatic regions including Canada, California, Japan, Ireland, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Dubai. To date, over 60,000 houses, schools, offices, and other building types have been built to the Passive House standard around the world.

For further information regarding the Australian Passive House Association, current events, speakers and promotion, or just to get involved – email [admin@passivehouseaustralia.org](mailto:admin@passivehouseaustralia.org).