



Australian Government
Australian Greenhouse Office

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
jcpw@aph.gov.au

Re: Development of Off Base Housing for Defence At Queanbeyan NSW

The proposed works outlined in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) submission to the Committee dated August 2003 are subject to certain provisions of the Commonwealth Energy Policy as detailed in the then Department of Industry, Science and Resources March 2000 publication titled: *Measures for Improving Energy Efficiency in Commonwealth Operations*. The relevant section of the Policy (4.4) states:

4.4 .1 Housing Planned New/leased Housing Acquisitions

All new Commonwealth owned or leased house shall have a Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) 4 star or better, in all regions as it becomes available.

NatHERS is a scheme, which allows energy efficiency of all new and existing housing to be rated on a consistent basis.

Section 15 of the DHA submission outlines that energy conservation will be a prime design consideration and we look forward to the DHA achieving a minimum NatHERS 4 star **or better** status by taking into consideration the requirement to provide optimal passive solar performance.

The intent of the measures was to ensure Government leadership in improving energy efficiency. In January 2003 the Building Code of Australia was amended to include minimum energy efficiency standards for housing equivalent to 4 star NatHERS rating. The measures in the Commonwealth Energy Policy are currently being revised to maintain the government leadership role.

The DHA energy conservation strategy for this housing project may benefit by reviewing the My Home technical documentation from the AGO website <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/>.



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The AGO also encourages the incorporation of good practice by the installation of cost effective electricity and water saving energy devices to facilitate further energy conservation measures.

The Defence Housing Authority, or the project manager, should provide the AGO with a report by a suitably qualified person outlining the modeled assessment of expected new housing performance against the *Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme* NatHERS 4 star **or better**.

Should you wish additional information please contact Kay Abel at the Australian Greenhouse Office on 02 6274 1039, Fax 02 6274 1913.

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