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HVAC&R on federal agenda

The ALP has put forward a plan to stimulate investment in energy efficient equipment.

It may only be a proposal from a shadow minister, but it was something of a revelation to see the built environment recently earning a mention in the ALP's Australian Investment Guarantee.

“Under the Australian Investment Guarantee, all Australian businesses will be able to immediately deduct 20 per cent of investment in eligible depreciable assets over \$20,000, including assets that lower energy use and improve energy efficiency,” says Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy Mark Butler.

“From small businesses upgrading refrigeration systems, to the largest manufacturers upgrading smelters, Australian businesses will receive permanent, targeted tax support to modernise and cut their energy bills.”

Industry reacted positively and immediately to the statement. The Property Council of Australia was one organisation that expressed its approval.



Mark Butler

“The built environment may not be top of mind when we think about big energy users but the fact is that buildings account for 23 per cent of Australia's emissions and over half of our electricity consumption,” said chief executive Ken Morrison. “Bringing forward investment in energy-saving equipment to improve the performance of our buildings would have a huge impact on energy use and emissions.”

Under current legislation, HVAC&R equipment is depreciated over its expected life-cycle, which in most cases is more than 10 years – and sometimes as long as 25 years. The policy could therefore provide a strong incentive to invest in more efficient systems. ■

Live by the code

You can still have your say on proposed changes to the 2019 NCC.

To support the release of the Public Comment Draft of the 2019 National Construction Code, several documents exploring the draft energy efficiency provisions have been released.

These are: the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS); an Energy Action report modelling the 2019 DTS provisions against the 2016 provision; and six case studies looking at the changes existing buildings and spaces would need to make in order to comply.

Importantly, as a result of the delayed release of the Consultation RIS, the ability to make comment on Section J, NCC 2019 Volume One has been extended until Friday, April 20. ■



To make a comment, go to:
www.abcb.gov.au/Consultation/Public-Comment-Draft/Submit-your-comment



We pick out some of the highlights of the ARBS Speaker Series, starting with this session that looks at the increasingly important concept of resilience in the built environment.

Session: Building HVAC&R resilience for a changing climate

AIRAH's Special Technical Group on Resilience is keen to challenge the notion that resilience costs more for building owners. They believe good resilient design extends asset life, improves comfort and decreases running costs – resulting in lower whole-of-life cost.

The speakers in this session will explore real-life case studies that demonstrate resilience in practice. These include Stocklands' approach to resilience across its portfolio, and the way good design at The Commons has ensured residential resilience in heatwaves. The role of technology in resilience will be examined in addition to smart building management and control systems to pre-empt heatwaves, and more stringent testing conditions for equipment.

The soon-to-be-launched Best Practice Guide for HVAC&R Resilience, which covers the whole life-cycle of HVAC&R from design, to engineering and installation, through to maintenance and operation, will also be discussed in this session.

This session will be of interest to HVAC&R designers, manufacturers, installers, property owners, managers and advisers who want to safeguard and future-proof their buildings and assets for a changing climate.

When: Midday–1.30pm, Wednesday, May 9

Presenters:

- Nicki Parker, M.AIRAH, Brisbane Sustainability Manager, Norman, Disney & Young, (above)
- Paul Stoller, M.AIRAH, Managing Director, Atelier Ten
- Lasath Lecamwasam, M.AIRAH, Building Services Engineer, ESBS Consultants.

How much: \$35 (including GST)

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