



Hon. Rob Stokes
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
NSW Government

AIRAH feedback on Design & Place SEPP

Dear Rob,

I write on behalf AIRAH, Australia's peak membership body for professionals and practitioners working in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) industry. Across the country, we count more than 10,000 members, the largest proportion of which are in New South Wales.

Our members who specialise in assessing thermal performance have flagged that rules are changing in NSW with the transition from BASIX to the Design & Place SEPP. We understand that the draft discussion paper includes a "merit assessment pathway" (MAP) to demonstrate compliance with thermal performance requirements, when a proposed building cannot be adequately modelled by the currently accepted tools (NatHERS, BASIX DIY, Passivhaus). The MAP would include the requirement that an alternative tool be selected and used by a registered architect or a member of Engineers Australia.

Our concern is that such tools require specialist skills that generalist engineers would not possess. As experts in the area of thermal performance, AIRAH members are well qualified to do this work, and we would request that they be included in the list of practitioners approved to do this work. Furthermore, we put ourselves forward to participate in the ongoing discussions. We believe we can provide valuable input on the development of the Design & Place SEPP, particularly in the area of thermal performance.

I hope that we can be involved in this important work, and would be happy to answer any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Gleeson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH
Chief Executive
AIRAH