



The Australian Ceramic Society  
Victorian Branch  
**EARLY MARCH LECTURE**  
Members and colleagues welcome

**WHAT:** Lecture by Cathy Inglis,  
Group Technical, Research & Engineering Manager,  
Austral Bricks

**AN OVERVIEW OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
REGULATIONS AND RATING TOOLS FOR  
AUSTRALIAN BUILDINGS**

(An abstract and brief bio are attached below)

**WHEN:** 6:30 pm Wednesday 5 March 2008

**WHERE:** Seminar room #1, Monash Centre  
Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne

Afterwards there will be a meal at a local venue to be advised.

Please email the secretary if you be attending the lecture and especially if you will be staying for a meal afterwards.

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# ENERGY EFFICIENCY REGULATIONS AND RATING TOOLS FOR AUSTRALIAN BUILDINGS – AN OVERVIEW

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## ABSTRACT

The Australian Government, in conjunction with the building sector, resolved to eliminate worst energy performance practices through a national standard approach to minimum performance requirements for buildings. Energy efficiency measures were introduced in January 2003, and the Building Code of Australia (BCA) has since been amended to include energy efficiency measures for all building classifications. The inclusion of energy efficiency measures in the BCA is part of a comprehensive strategy being undertaken by the Australian, State and Territory Governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the minimum performance requirements voluntary schemes encourage designers to achieve best practice. Rating tools have been introduced to promote the development of a sustainable property industry for Australia by encouraging the adoption of green building practices. This paper provides a background discussion on some of these rating tools. Finally, it looks at the impact of the energy efficiency regulations and rating tools on the brick industry.

To satisfy requirements of the voluntary systems to improve the sustainability of Australian buildings designers are met with enormous amounts of 'green wash' and conflicting information. Much of the misleading information promotes the benefits of lightweight buildings over those with mass with many of the rating tools that assess thermal performance being based on other models and not verifiable data.

To address these misconceptions and to produce hard data, the brick industry is collaborating with the Masonry Research Group at the University of Newcastle in a major research program on the thermal performance of masonry housing. The thermal performance of masonry housing is being investigated at both a fundamental and applied level using both experimental and first principles techniques.

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Cathy Inglis is the Group Technical, Research and Engineering Manager at Austral Bricks/Bristile Roofing/ Eureka Tiles/ Brickworks Ltd and is responsible for research and development of new products and technical matters nationally. She is Chair of the Think Brick Australia National Technical Committee, and represents the brick industry on several Australian Standard Committees, as well as being on the Advisory Board of the Thermal Research Group at Newcastle University. She is also Chair of the NSW HIA Technical Committee.