

April 15, 2019

ALUMINIUM FOIL INSULATION COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA Inc

MISSION STATEMENT

The promotion as a solution, of reflective aluminium foil insulation solar radiation shields for homes and many buildings, which is the most important defence to ensuring humans survive increasing heat from the everchanging climate.

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Purpose to form AFICA (in March 2019)

1. Solar radiation shields of reflective foil insulation products have not been properly defended for several years, and now it is the time for a new vision, a new approach, a new foil association.
2. To promote aluminium foil insulations in the design of buildings as a permanent and continuous resistance against radiant heat transfer.
3. AFICA was conceived in February-March 2019 to give the foil insulation industry stronger presence in the pursuit of building energy efficiency, in light of the successful use of foil insulations in Australia since 1953.
4. Support reflective foil manufacturers, distributors, ensure the media, and consumers are factually informed to the benefits of reflective foil insulation products.
5. To promote the full thermal benefits of aluminium foil insulations, which includes determining the suitability of foil insulation materials for the relevant climate, and being part of overall climate adaptation strategies particularly in light of predicted 50 degC temperatures for Sydney and Melbourne in coming decades.
6. AFICA to pursue with Standards Australia representation on Standards Committee BD 58, keeping in mind that the 2018 'Technical Governance Review' into Standards Australia recommended full transparency, and greater public participation on Standards Committees.
7. To defend foil insulation manufacturers and distributors from the sudden and unexpected and contentious condensation changes in the NCC May 2019, whereby 'breather' membranes are to replace most foil insulation products in housing, more so in walls of houses in Climate Zones 6,7,8. The NCC did not consult with the entire foil insulation industry.

The NCC changes were preceded by a 'Scoping Study of Condensation in Residential Buildings: Final Report' (Sept 2016) which had concluded that there was a "need for vapour permeability in all Australian buildings"(pg90). Other key quotes, include:

"as now recognized by the ABCB, increasing levels of insulation and air tightness are changing the underlying building physics" (pg24).

"Any recommended solution or strategy should be tested before being implemented in the Australian context....."(pg33).

Following the Scoping Study, there was a 'Parliamentary Inquiry into Biotoxin-related illness In Australia' (Oct 2018), which made recommendations, including:

Recommendation 4: "the government work with states and territories to **conduct further research** into the adequacy of current building codes and standards related to the prevention and remediation of dampness and mould in buildings".

Submission 75, Dr Tim Law (Univ Tas) concluded that "a **research inquiry** would make for a more suitable outcome" and that "condensation and mould might have been recently exacerbated by increased air tightness and thermal differentials....from increased energy efficiency legislature".

8. AFICA to pursue an independent building research testing facility with a controlled environment chamber to test all insulation products, for thermal, fire, moisture/vapour transmission properties and conditioned air roof ducting systems in Dynamic State (as opposed to Steady State).
9. AFICA notes that the NCC 2019 changes include the splitting of House Energy Star ratings systems (HERS), into separate winter and summer ratings. Accordingly, AFICA demands that the referenced insulation standards are proven in 'Dynamic State' and be 'fit for purpose', able to be comprehended, and provide Public Net Benefit, which is the central tenet of Standards Australia.

That is why an independent government funded building research testing facility is needed.

*NCC – National Construction Code

*ABCB – Australian Building Codes Board