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NATHERS 7-STAR COMPLIANCE Principles & Practices for Energy-Efficient Homes

1. What does the NatHERS Thermal Rating measure and how is the rating expressed?
2. Why is orientation a key design lever for home energy efficiency?
3. Which window components can be chosen to improve thermal performance?
4. How can thermal mass be detrimental in a building design?
5. How do wall cavities and reflective sarking improve a home's thermal performance?
6. Why might the same house design achieve different star ratings in Melbourne and Brisbane?

By the end of this session you should understand:

- Understand the NatHERS 7-star rating system, including its regulatory context, compliance pathways, and performance benchmarks for residential buildings.
- Identify and apply core passive design principles, including orientation, shading, insulation, thermal mass, and natural ventilation, to improve building energy efficiency.
- Evaluate the impact of design decisions such as window placement, wall construction, and colour reflectivity on thermal performance across different Australian climate zones.
- Incorporate climate-responsive strategies into residential design by aligning passive solutions with the specific requirements of Australia's eight NatHERS climate zones.

Competency Codes: PC31, PC33, PC39.

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