**MEDIA RELEASE**

**New board members mark a new era as APHA sets sights on the owner operator market across the Nation**

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Today, the Australian Passivhaus Association formally announces the appointment of 5 new board members, marking the beginning of a new era as the organisation sets its sights on a stronger national reach and new sectors for the standard’s adoption.

Australian Passivhaus Association CEO, Alexia Lidas said that new leaders with a National outlook were sought for the board to support the Association’s strategic goals of increasing its impact by expanding across the Nation and further into the owner-operator market.

“*Our future strategic goals require input and influence from wider geographical coverage and a greater range of sectors. It was also important to us that the incoming board members best reflected the breadth of our membership across the supply chain.”*

The five incoming board members hold national and global roles within sustainability in finance, architecture engineering and construction, working across a wide variety of sectors.

*“We will tap into both the incoming and existing board members' to see the passivhaus standard become business as usual within education, health, residential retrofit, residential multi-storey, social and affordable housing and build to rent across the Nation. To be released in January 2023, our three year strategy has some pretty ambitious targets”. said Ms Lidas.*

Incoming board member Jeffrey Robinson of Aurecon highlighted a sense of urgency and the relevance of the Passivhaus standard in combating climate change.

“ We have less than 10 years to rapidly decarbonise the Construction Industry in Australia and I believe that Passivhaus certification provides a well-tested way of controlling the quality of design and construction to deliver low carbon, comfortable and healthy buildings with I’m really looking forward to working with Alexis and my fellow board members and helping APHA to keep growing and transforming the Property industry over the next 2 years,” said Jeffrey Robinson, Principal Buildings at Aurecon.

The association received over 14 nominations for the board, which is the largest number of applicants to date. With an impressive suite of candidates, the association believes the level of attention is a testament to the success of the association to date and the relevance of passivhaus in society. The association has grown 20% year on year.

With a two-year term commencing 2023 - 2025, the incoming board members are:

* Erik Moore - AMP Capital, National ESG operations and reporting lead | Senior Sustainability Manager
* Samantha Peart- Global Head of Sustainability at Hassell
* Jeff Robinson - Global Sustainable Design Expertise Leader at Aurecon
* David Barker- Senior Principal and National Sustainability Leader at Integral Group
* Joe Karten, Head of Sustainability and Social Impact at Built

The new members will serve alongside existing board members who are continuing their term Kate Nason of Frasers Property, Nick Tassigiannakis of Bridgeford Group, Joe Mercieca of Blue Eco Homes, Bohemia Hookham of Lendlease and Heather McCabe of Envirotecture.

*ENDS \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Alexia Lidas*

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The Australian Passivhaus Association[[1]](#footnote-0) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation which aims to promote Passive House principles as a way of providing superior indoor comfort and air quality while reducing energy use and carbon emissions from Australia’s buildings.

## **Passivhaus buildings use 80-90% less energy.**

Passive House (or PassivHaus) was originally developed in Germany and has since spread throughout Europe. The standard continues to evolve and is now finding popularity in diverse climatic regions including Canada, California, Japan, Ireland, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Dubai. To date over 60,000 [[2]](#footnote-1) houses, schools, offices, and other building types have been built to the Passive House standard around the world.

For further information regarding the Australian Passivhaus Association, current events, Passivhaus training courses), speakers and promotion, or just to get involved - email [admin@passivehouseaustralia.org](mailto:admin@passivehouseaustralia.org)

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://passivehouse-international.org/index.php?page_id=65> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)