

# BUILT FOR COMFORT

## Participant Experience



**Name:** Ed and Jenny

**Location:** Cobbitty, NSW

**Project Type:**  Renovation  New Build

**Resources Accessed:**  Built for Comfort Guide  Introductory Workshop  Design Consultation

### Why did you become involved in Built for Comfort?

Whilst we have experience with renovating homes having completed five other renovation projects, this will be our first new build and we wanted to get it right. The Built for Comfort program provided a one-on-one consultation with an industry expert who had a look over our plans and provided us some very useful advice on the homes efficiency.

### How did you find the one-hour design consultation?

Participating in the Built for Comfort consultation with industry expert Brad Hoad was interesting. It was very useful in having him look over the plans and discuss energy and heat efficiency in the home.

### Did you learn anything surprising?

Brad highlighted that our house plans were back to front, three out of four of the bedrooms will be on the north of the property and one on the south. The living areas will also be on the south, the house will be east – west running which is not the ideal orientation to take advantage of natural light and heat.

Brad also drew attention to the need for better tap and trim around the rangehood ducting to seal air gaps and prevent heat loss, the need for higher rated insulation to compensate for the south facing living areas, benefits of ceiling fans to reduce heat and that we should include a larger rainwater tank to have greater efficiency in water used for irrigation.

### Have you incorporated what you learnt into your new home?

Due to prioritising the natural views over the orientation of the home, we have incorporated a higher rated insulation to reduce heat loss during winter in south facing living areas. We also learnt useful tips such as how to effectively remove excess heat out of the garage using exhaust fans, as well as tips on lowering the energy use of the home using solar water heating and solar panels in the future.

### What changes did you make?

- ✓ Exhaust fan in the garage
- ✓ Solar water heater
- ✓ Higher rated insulation
- ✓ Better insulated exterior design
- ✓ Inclusion of solar panels in the future
- ✓ Better trim and tap around rangehood ducting to seal air gaps

“The design consultation with Brad Hoad was both interesting and helpful and we would definitely recommend this program. As we were very involved in the design process, Brad gave us the confidence we were on the right track but also identified key actions that offered real opportunities to improve the thermal comfort and energy efficiency of our new home”.

# BUILT FOR COMFORT

## Participant Experience



**Name:** Tim and Rosa

**Location:** Oran Park, NSW

**Project Type:**  Renovation  New Build

**Resources Accessed:**  Built for Comfort Guide  Introductory Workshop  Design Consultation

### Why did you become involved in Built for Comfort?

As we were building a new home in Oran Park it was a great opportunity. While we knew a bit about energy efficiency and sustainable design, we still thought it would be good to come along to one of Council's free Built for Comfort workshops to see what it was all about.

### How did you find the workshop?

Because the workshop was led by an independent sustainable design consultant, we found it really useful and balanced. Brad provided a lot of information and ideas to think about in our new home. It was also a great reminder that we would actually have to live in the home, so making a purposeful decision to design for comfort and liveability was important.

### What about the one-hour design consultation?

It was a huge help as we had been thinking about how the house should sit on the block. Brad gave us a number of ideas and things to look out for and plan for as part of the build, and suggested items like low cost insulation to areas that might not usually be standard.

The most useful part was learning how all of the little things add up to make a big difference to the overall energy efficiency of your new home.

### Did you learn anything surprising?

Yes. It was surprising to learn that even some things that were quite simple will really improve the comfort of the home in the long run. Things like insulation over the internal roof access, and over the front portico, which is very cheap. It was also interesting to learn that because the garage and alfresco areas weren't insulated either, this could impact the rest of the house as they are all under the same roofline.

### Have you incorporated what you learnt into your new home?

We came away from the consultation with lots to think about and felt that it definitely helped us to decide where it was best to allocate our money to make the biggest impact, and make sure we also end up with a liveable home.

We were able to take our ideas to our builder and have made some changes to our home which will hopefully be built soon.

### What changes did you make?

- ✓ Additional insulation
- ✓ Inclusion of a wall wrap
- ✓ Double glazing for some windows
- ✓ Inclusion of a skylight
- ✓ Changed the siting of the home on the block to make best use of the orientation

"We would definitely recommend the Built for Comfort program to others and encourage people building in the Camden area to take part. We found the whole program very useful. Being able to have a design consultation at a time and location that suited us to get customised advice was really valuable."