

Purpose:	To specify the approach to air conditioning and heating adopted by the University		
Audience:	Staff and students		
Contact Officer:	General Manager, Strategy & Planning	Phone:	See Campus Directory

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Preamble:

At Murdoch University, building stock varies widely in terms of age, type of construction and nature of usage. Although it is acknowledged that this creates a wide temperature range within Murdoch University buildings, new heating and cooling installations increase the load on existing electrical infrastructure and raise the University's level of greenhouse gas emissions.

The energy cost for heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) represents about one third of the University's annual energy bill. In the absence of significant conservation measures, energy costs are projected to rise. The expansion of artificial heating and cooling may also require investment in electrical infrastructure, including a major upgrade of high voltage (HV) reticulation on campuses and low voltage (LV) reticulation within buildings.

To provide an appropriate level of comfort for as many University users as possible, existing air conditioning systems are adjusted to operate within a particular temperature band. Some areas are also targeted for passive and/or non-mechanical heating and cooling solutions, where appropriate.

Objectives:

1. To outline a standard and consistent method for evaluating and approving works to resolve temperature issues.

Policy:

1. This policy is applicable to all existing University-owned buildings and facilities at the South St, Rockingham, and Peel campuses of Murdoch University, and all new building developments.
2. Deans and Heads of Division, Heads of School and Directors of administrative offices are responsible for ensuring adherence to this policy. The Property, Development & Commercial Services Office (PDCSO) is responsible for implementation of the policy with respect to new buildings and refurbishments, and for ensuring compliance by consultants and contractors for building and refurbishment projects.
3. Portable air conditioners and personal heaters are subject to this policy.
4. In general, all air conditioning will be connected to the chilled water system. Attachment 1 identifies the University's schedule for Chilled Water Retrofits through to 2019.
5. The University will give preference to sustainable and energy efficient solutions (such as passive design) over air conditioning in new buildings and refurbishments.
6. Where non mechanical means such as passive design and/or energy efficient retrofits are inadequate, air conditioning will be provided in accordance with the following priorities and subject to consideration of a business case in each instance:
 - 6.1 Laboratories that cannot function without a thermally controlled environment

- 6.2 Lecture theaters
 - 6.3 Teaching laboratories and seminar rooms
 - 6.4 Individual laboratories and tutorial rooms
 - 6.5 Offices with poor structural insulation
 - 6.6 Offices without solar shading
 - 6.7 Other types of space
7. Consideration will also be given to the costs, including lifecycle operating costs, and anticipated benefits of installing air-conditioning in each case.
 8. Only air cooling and heating devices approved by the General Manager, Assets & Maintenance at PDCSO may be installed on University property. This is to ensure that all devices are fit for purpose and meet energy consumption, electrical and safety requirements.
 9. Stand alone air conditioning systems shall only be installed where a high level of environmental control is required. In these situations the requisitioner must demonstrate why the proposed level of environmental control cannot be achieved by other means.
 10. Due to the impact on the University's power infrastructure and greenhouse gas emissions, a space occupier's capacity to fund an air conditioning system/s will not be seen as a right to install a system. PDCSO may remove any air conditioner, air conditioning system, and/or heating device which is installed and/or used by a space occupier that is not compliant with this policy.

Supporting Procedures:

There are no supporting procedures.

Supporting Guidelines:

There are no supporting guidelines.

Supporting Standards:

There are no supporting standards.

Performance Indicators:

There are no performance indicators.

Definitions:

There are no key terms.

Related Documents:

Energy, Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Management Policy

References:

Comcare – Air conditioning and thermal comfort in Australian Public Service Offices
NSW Work Cover Guidelines

Approval and Implementation:

Approval Authority:	Senior Executive Director, PDCSO
Responsible Officer(s):	General Manager, Strategy & Planning

Revision History:

Version	Date Approved	Effective Date (if later than 'Date Approved')	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
1	7/12/2011		7/12/2014	