

# Solar Water Heater Small-Scale Technology Certificates Requirements

## Plumbing Advisory Note

June 2019

For optimum performance, solar water heater collector panels should be orientated as close to true north as possible.

Collector panels should not be shaded by trees or buildings, particularly in winter when the sun is low in the sky.

For installations beyond 45° from true north, the amount of energy provided by the sun will be lower, and additional or higher performing collectors may be needed.

## NCC Performance Requirements

The *National Construction Code Series (NCC)* Volume Three, Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA), specifies the performance requirements related to the installation of water services including heated water services.

South Australia has the following variations to Section B2 of the 2019 PCA in relation to solar water heaters:

- SA B2.9 provides the deemed-to-satisfy general requirements for heated water services. SA B2.9 requires that installations are in accordance with AS/NZS 3500.4:2018.
- SA B2.2 provides the deemed-to-satisfy Small-Scale Technology Certificates (STC) eligibility requirements for solar water heaters installed in South Australia.

## Deemed to Satisfy Solution

AS/NZS 3500.4:2018 Table 6.5.1.2 (A) includes minimum STC values for solar water heaters installed at an orientation of between 45° and 90° east or west of true north.

The previous version of this standard restricted the orientation of the collector panels to within 45° of true north.

### Note:

Where STC values in AS/NZS 3500.4:2018 Table 6.5.1.2(A) are less than the STC values in Section SA B2.2 of the PCA, Section SA B2.2 will take precedence.