

Rethinking Aged Care Construction - Consider Timber



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Introduction

Timber's sustainability credentials are attracting world-wide interest and advances in timber engineering have made timber an increasingly cost-competitive proposition.

Encouraging the construction industry to adopt innovative approaches needs information and evidence. Attention to technical design, construction costs and site processes is critical to show the value proposition of timber construction to customers and optimise its use.

This Guide aims to help those involved in the decision chain (such as cost managers, estimators, design professionals, building developers and project managers) gain a better understanding of the value that timber construction systems offer aged care projects.

The Guide is based on a research project that developed a model aged care building and a corresponding lightweight timber-framed solution, and compared it with a corresponding lightweight steel-framed solution. Both solutions were designed to optimise functional performance, constructability and cost-effectiveness and provide guidance for compliance under the National Construction Code (NCC). The Guide provides an explanatory understanding of decision-making issues when developing timber solutions.



What Drives Decisions When Choosing a Construction System for Aged Care Projects

A central objective of the project was to provide an understanding of the decision drivers along the customer/supply chain in the selection of construction systems for aged care projects.

Key areas of exploration included:

- Gathering information about customer needs and how construction systems affect decision making.
- Benchmarking against existing construction systems typically used in aged care projects, especially lightweight steel framing as used in brick veneer construction. The steel-framed solution for the model building is provided for comparative purposes in Appendix A.
- Understanding the nature of the overall delivery supply chain and related workflows, especially construction scheduling, productivity and prefabrication issues.
- Optimising the regulatory framework where it affects the viability of timber solutions.

3

Project Development

The research project was developed by a series of expert/stakeholder meetings, interviews, concept development sessions, design charrettes, cost planning studies, construction programming studies and detailed design studies aimed at developing the model building and a cost-effective timber solution for it.

A team of experts worked together to provide input to the development process. Core collaborators included:

- The Timber Development Association: A market development association for the timber industry and the project leader for this work.
- The University of Technology Sydney: A technology-driven university with an integrated understanding of the building industry and specific expertise in timber construction. The university co-developed the research method and mediated the strategic direction of the timber solutions in terms of detailed design, cost and site productivity issues.
- **BCIS**: A global subsidiary of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors that specialises in gathering building cost data used for reporting on cost trends for a variety of building forms. BCIS provided quantity surveying and cost planning input for both the timber solution and the corresponding steel solution.
- Engineered timber manufacturers, suppliers and industry associations (including Tilling Timber, Hyne Timber, Meyer Timber, Nelson Pine Industries, Carter Holt Harvey Wood Products, MiTek): Their input helped ensure the practical viability, design properties and availability of appropriate timber componentry.
- Plan Source: A building designer with good knowledge of framed construction systems. A concept design was developed to represent a typical aged care project, including the development of the timber and steel-framed solutions for the model.



A Model Aged Care Building the Basis for Comparison and Solution Development

The model aged care building (Figure 1) demonstrates a prototypical situation for modelling spatial, loading, fire and noise resistance conditions, providing a neutral base for creating both the timber and competing steel solutions. The full design drawings are in Appendix B. The model's basic spatial characteristics are provided in Table 1.

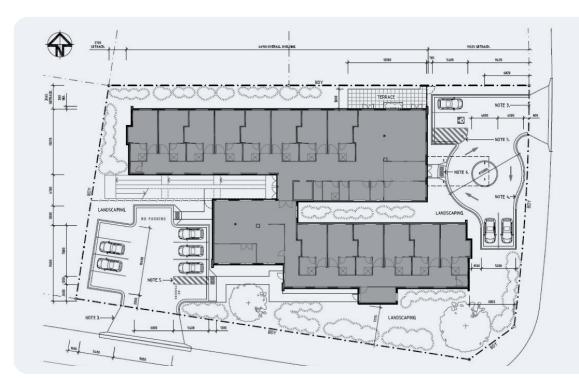


Figure 1: Site plan of two-storey aged care building.

Item	What was used in the model	Relevance and reasons
Height	Two-storey construction 6.85 m overall height 6.0 m to underside of eaves	This represents a typical height for buildings of this style
Area	Gross Floor Area - 1,681 m² Floor Space Ratio - 0.67:1	The area and floor-to-space ratio aim to be indicative of common aged care building situations
Setbacks	External wall distances are at least 3.0 m from property boundaries	The location of the building relative to other buildings/properties affects façade fire-resistance requirements
NCC Building classification	Class 9c building, i.e. aged care buildings	The classification influences performance and compliance requirements

Table 1: Key spatial characteristics of the aged care building.

4.1 Core Differences between the Timber and Steel Solutions

The only difference between the timber solution and steel-framed solution concerns the wall and floor structure throughout the residential levels of the building (i.e. the levels above the ground floor slab). Parameters pertaining to fire, acoustic and building services requirements (that affect both the timber and steel solutions) are provided under dedicated headings below. Other aspects of the two competing solutions are essentially the same and provide relative neutrality for comparisons.

Discussions of the solutions that are identical have been excluded. Examples of this are the roof coverings, window and doors, services, finishes and fire penetrations.

4.2 Structural Themes

Parameters applied to the model:

- Deemed-to-Satisfy loading was taken from AS 1170, e.g. applied imposed wind loads.
- Wind speed: N2 (AS 4055).
- Load paths are managed in the apartment levels via load-bearing walls and beams.
- · Weathered shale soil conditions have been applied in the structural design.

Reasons:

- The selected wind speed reflects typical conditions the model building would likely face in realworld conditions.
- The selected foundation is common in large parts of the greater Sydney basin and other parts of Australia where these buildings would often be found.

4.3 Building Acoustics

Parameters applied to the model:

Class 9c Residential Care Buildings have different acoustic requirements than for residential buildings that are classified as Class 2 or 3, i.e. apartments and hotels. In general, the acoustic rating is lower, and there is no ctr adjustment factor, except for the covering of services.

- Walls between bed-sitters, between bed-sitters and neighbouring bathrooms, and between bed-sitters and kitchen, laundry and plant or utility rooms are required to have an Rw of not less than 45, as per NCC Clause F5.5.
- Floors between bed-sitters must have an Rw of not less than 45.
- Ducts, soil, waste, water supply pipes or stormwater, including a duct or pipe that is located in a
 wall or floor cavity, must be separated from any sole-occupancy unit by construction with an
 Rw + Ctr (airborne) not less than -
 - Adjacent room is a habitable room (other than a kitchen) 40
 - Adjacent room is a kitchen or non-habitable room 25

4.4 Fire Resistance (based on NCC Requirements)

Parameters applied to the model:

- Type C construction was used, as allowed by the BCA Provision C1.5 for a building with a Rise
 of Storey of two if it has sprinkler (BCA Specification E1.5 only) throughout and the maximum
 compartment size is no larger than 3,000 m2 or 18,000 m3. Therefore, the building's Deemed-toSatisfy (DTS) fire resistance requirements are:
 - external walls: no fire resistance requirements as they are more than 3.0 m from the boundary unless supporting the fire-rated floor where they will be required to be 60/60/60
 - external columns: not applicable
 - common or firewall: not applicable
 - internal wall: no fire resistance required unless supporting the fire-rated floor and must have fire-resistance of 60/60/60
 - floor: BCA's Provision C2.5 (b) (ii) requires all floors to be 60/60/60
 - beams and columns: no fire resistance required unless supporting the fire-rated floor and must have fire-resistance of 60/60/60
 - roof: no fire resistance required.
- Additional NSW-based requirements:
 - sprinklers are installed
 - internal walls to be covered in 13 mm standard grade plasterboard, unless required to be fire-rated
 - where insulation is used, the insulation must be non-combustible
 - internal walls must be smoke-sealed at any construction joint, space between the top of the wall and the floor, ceiling or roof.

Reasons:

- The building is assumed to be in NSW, and therefore the NCC BCA's variation for NSW applies.
- The building is two storeys in height, has a sprinkler and meets the NCC BCA's Provision Clause C1.5 that allows 9c buildings to be defined as Type C fire-resistant construction.
- Type C construction has fire resistance requirements for:
 - floor 60/60/60
 - walls that support the floor 60/60/60
 - beam and columns that support the floor 60/60/60
 - walls surround the lift 60/60/60.
- Type C construction does not have any fire resistance requirements for:
 - external walls (except loadbearing) or columns (as they are more than 3.0 m from a fire source)
 - internal non-loadbearing walls bounding corridors, between bed-sitters and stairs
 - stairs (not required to be 'fire isolated' under NCC BCA's Clause D1.3)
 - roof.



The Timber Solution

This section presents core design information for the timber solutions.

5.1 Internal and External Walls

Wall systems used in the timber solution (see Table 2):

- For all walls separating bed-sitter bathroom and corridor or storeroom:
 - SY1 ground floor
 - SY1 first floor.
- For all walls separating bed-sitter bathroom and neighbouring bed-sitter bathrooms:
 - SY2 ground floor
 - SY2 first floor.
- For all walls separating bed-sitter and neighbouring bed-sitter, corridors or common rooms:
 - SY3 ground floor
 - SY3 first floor.
- SY4 for walls surround the lift shaft and other loadbearing walls, ground and first floor.
- SY5 for walls surrounding the office, kitchen, store and public toilet, and not abutting a bed-sitter, ground and first floor.
- SY6 for smoke-proof, ground and first floor.
- External walls system:
 - external wall ground floor brick veneer
 - external wall first floor lightweight timber cladding.

Wall	Diagram of Wall System	Des	cription	Acoustic	Fire	
Туре		Structural	Rw	rating		
SY1 – Ground Floor		Staggered stud walls consisting of 90 x 35 mm top and bottom plates and 70 x 45 mm studs at 300 mm centres.	11 x 13 mm moisture resistant grade plasterboard bathroom side and 1 x 13 mm impact-grade plasterboard for the first 1,200 mm from floor level with 13 mm standard grade plasterboard above this height, and 75 mm noncombustible glass wool batts.	46 CSR 2226	Nil	
SY1 – First Floor		Staggered stud walls 1 x 13 mm moisture		46 CSR 2226	Nil	
SY2 – Ground Floor	ound consisting of		1 x 16 mm fire-protective and moisture resistant grade plasterboard, both sides, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts	47 CSR 2257	60/60/60	
SY2 – First Floor	Staggered stud walls consisting of 90 x 35 mm top and bottom plates and 70 x 35 mm studs at 300 mm centres 1 x 13 mm moisture resistant grade plasterboard, both sides, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts		47 CSR 2227	Nil		
SY3 - Ground Floor		Staggered stud walls consisting of 90 x 35 mm, top and bottom plates and 70 x 45 mm studs at 300 mm centres 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts		46 CSR 2225	60/60/60	

Table 2: Wall systems.

Wall	Diagram of Wall System		Description	Acoustic	Fire
Туре		Structural	Linings & Insulation	Rw	rating
SY3 - First Floor		Staggered stud walls consisting of 90 x 35 mm top and bottom plates and 70 x 35 mm studs at 300 mm centres	1 x 13 mm impact grade plasterboard for the first 1,200 mm from floor level with 13 mm standard grade plasterboard above this height, both sides, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts	46 CSR 2225	Nil
SY4 Walls around the lift shaft and other loadbearing ground floor walls		Single stud walls consisting of 90 x 35 mm top and bottom plates and 90 x 35 mm studs at 600 mm centres 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts		No rating required	60/60/60 CSR 2060
SY5 and Smoke- Proof Wall - Ground and First Floor Walls	consisting of 90 x 35 mm top and bottom plates and 90 x 35 mm studs plasterboard for the first 1,200 mm from floor level with 13 mm standard grade plasterboard above this height, both sides.		No rating required	No rating required	
External Wall – Ground Floor	consisting of 90 protective grade plasterboard.		No rating required	60/60/60 CSR 920	
External Wall – First Floor		Single stud walls consisting of 90 x 35 mm top and bottom plates and 90 x 35 mm studs at 600 mm centres	Inside face: 1 x 13 mm impact grade plasterboard for the first 1,200 mm from floor level with 13 mm standard grade plasterboard above this height. External face: lightweight timber cladding, and 75 mm noncombustible glass wool batts	No rating required	No rating required

Table 2: Wall systems (continued).

5.2 Floor Structure

Floor systems used in the timber solution (see Table 3):

- Floors
 - Internal floor general areas (excluding wet areas) Type 1
 - Internal floor wet areas and external balcony floor Type 2

Туре	Diagram of Floor System	Description	Acc	oustic	Fire
			Rw	Ln,w	rating
1		 240 mm deep I-joists at 450 crs 19 mm particleboard flooring to all interior areas Suspension system and furring channel at 600 crs 2 x 13 mm fire-protective plasterboard ceilings 	57	NA	60/60/60 CSR 6267
2		 240 mm deep I-joists at 450 crs 18 mm fibre cement to all wet areas and balcony Suspension system and furring channel at 600 crs 2 x 13 mm fire-protective plasterboard ceilings 	57	NA	60/60/60 CSR 6267

Table 3: Floors Systems used in the timber building.

5.3 Beams

Beams were used over openings in walls or rooms to break up the floor joist spans. They were incorporated into fire-rating of the ceiling and therefore required no additional fire-resistance protection.

5.4 Columns

Columns were used to support the floor beams on the ground level. These columns were placed into ground floor walls that had no fire rating and therefore required to be fire-rated to 60/60/60. Their fire resistance was provided by 45 mm effective depth of char, calculated from AS/NZS 1720.4.

¹ CSR Red Book System Number 821

5.5 Roof/Ceiling Space to Top-Most Storey

Applied to the model

• 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts are used 1,200 mm either side of the acoustic-rated wall (Figure 2).

Reasons:

- All systems used meet NCC minimum requirements and therefore require acoustic treatment to this zone.
- Systems configuration between steel and timber are effectively the same.

Comparison to steel design:

• The system configuration is effectively the same.

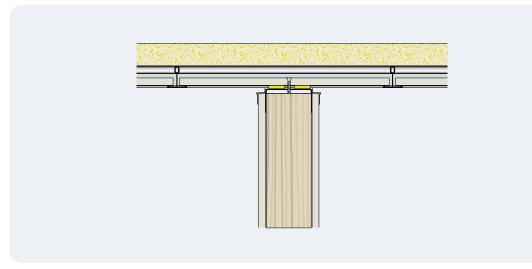


Figure 2: Sound-rated insulation above top-most ceiling.



Cost Plan Results – Comparing the Timber and Concrete Solutions

Cost comparison of the two competing solutions involved developing a cost plan for both the timber frame and steel frame solutions. A Bill of Quantities was developed, and the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors Building Cost Index was used to determine the rates to be applied.

The Building Cost Index contained rates for most items. Where no cost information was available. a price from the market was used.

6.1 Cost Plan Conclusions

Table 4 compares major items considered in the cost plan. Detailed cost information is contained in Appendix C.

Element	Timber	Steel	Variance
Columns	\$1,430	\$4,050	-\$2,620
Upper Floor	\$53,898	\$85,400	-\$31,502
Roof	\$87,351	\$87,515	-\$164
Ceiling	\$158,663	\$158,663	0
External Walls	\$271,878	\$266,680	\$5,198
Interior Walls	\$332,454	\$325,390	\$7,064
	\$905,674	\$927,698	\$22,024

Table 4: Cost comparison between each building considered.

The timber solution shows costs that are \$22,024 (2.4%) lower than the steel frame solution.

Reduced costs for the timber solution were mainly in the upper floor framing, i.e. \$31,502 or 37% lower than steel solution. Additional timber costs were in the wall framing, i.e. \$12,291, or a 0.4% increase.



Conclusion

The timber solution was found to be cheaper – \$22,024 (2.4%) – than the steel framing solution in the cost planning exercise.

All aspects of the model, aged care building, were the same, except for the competing framing systems used. Of note, the timber solution used stud walls, roof trusses and I-joists; the steel solution used studs, trusses and C-section joists. These elements became the basis of the cost plan, and other equivalent items that were the same cost were not considered.

The deep floor joists for the upper floor construction was the main differentiating feature between the two options, where the timber option was much less expensive than steel joists. Of less impact, timber wall frames were slightly more expensive than steel wall framing.

The Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Building Cost Index was used to determine the rates for both the timber and steel frame solution. Where costs were not available, they were estimated by obtaining a market price and adding labour, delivery and other installation costs. The missing Building Cost Index data occurred for the same elements, and accordingly, the steel and timber systems were treated in the same way.

Further saving may be possible from the timber solutions as the Building Cost Index did not estimate timber systems well. Comparisons of cost from the market and the Building Cost Index varied considerably, even when labour, delivery and other install costs were considered.

Using timber for aged care building construction should be considered a viable alternative to steel frame construction, and it is recommended that market prices should be used instead of a cost index.



Appendix A: Comparison Design: The Steel-Framed Solution

A1 Internal and External Walls

Wall systems used in the timber solution (see Table A1):

- For all walls separating bed-sitter bathroom and corridor or storeroom:
 - SY1 Ground and first floor
- For all walls separating bed-sitter bathroom and neighbouring bed-sitter bathrooms:
 - SY2 Ground floor
 - SY2 First floor
- For all walls separating bed-sitter and neighbouring bed-sitter, corridors or common rooms:
 - SY3 Ground
 - SY3 First floor
- SY4 for walls surround the lift shaft and other loadbearing walls ground and first floor
- SY5 for walls surrounding the office, kitchen, store and public toilet, and not abutting a bed-sitter –
 ground and first floor
- SY6 for Smoke-proof ground and first floor
- External walls system:
 - External wall lower for fire-rated brick veneer
 - External wall upper for lightweight timber cladding

Wall	Diagram of Wall System	Des	cription	Acoustic Rw	Fire rating
Туре		Structural			
SY1 – Ground and Floor		CSR's 92 mm Quiet Stud at 600 mm centres and track 1 x 13 mm moisture resistant grade plasterboard bathroom side and 1 x 13 mm impact grade plasterboard for the first 1,200 mm from floor level with 13 mm standard grade plasterboard above this height. 75 mm non- combustible glass wool batts.		51 CSR 1108	Nil
SY2 – Ground Floor		CSR's 92 mm Quiet Stud at 600 mm centres and track 1 x 16 mm fire-protective and moisture resistant grade plasterboard, both sides, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts.		50 CSR 1127	60/60/60
SY2 – First Floor		CSR's 92 mm Quiet Stud at 600 mm centres and track 1 x 13 mm moisture resistant grade plasterboard, both sides, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts.		49 CSR 1105	Nil
SY3 – Ground Floor		CSR's 92 mm Quiet Stud at 600 mm centres and track	·		60/60/60
SY3 – First Floor		CSR's 92 mm Quiet Stud at 600 mm centres and track 1 x 13 mm impact grade plasterboard for the first 1,200 mm from floor level with 13 mm standard grade plasterboard above this height, both sides, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts.		49 CSR 1105	Nil

Table A1: Walls systems used in the timber building.

Wall	Diagram of Wall System	Des	cription	Acoustic	Fire	
Туре		Structural Linings & Insulation		Rw	rating	
SY4 Walls around the lift shaft and other loadbearing ground floor walls		92 mm metal stud walls 600 mm centres and track	1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides, and 75 mm non- combustible glass wool batts	No rating required	60/60/60 CSR 2070	
SY5 and Smoke- Proof Wall – Ground and First Floor Walls		92 mm metal stud walls 600 mm centres and track 1 x 13 mm impact grade plasterboard for the first 1,200 mm from floor level with 13 mm standard grade plasterboard above this height, both sides.		No rating required	No rating required	
External Wall – Ground Floor		92 mm metal stud walls 600 mm centres and track	Inside face: 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard. External face: 90 mm brick veneer external face, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts.	No rating required	60/60/60 CSR 5891	
External Wall – First Floor		92 mm metal stud walls 600 mm centres and track	Inside face: 1 x 13 mm impact grade plasterboard for the first 1,200 mm from floor level with 13 mm standard grade plasterboard above this height. External face: lightweight timber cladding, and 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts.	No rating required	No rating required	

Table A1: Walls systems used in the timber building (continued).

A2 Floor Structure

Floor systems used in the timber solution (see Table A2):

- Floors
 - Internal floor general areas (excluding wet areas) Type 1
 - Internal floor wet areas and external balcony floor Type 2

Туре	Diagram of Floor System	Description	Acc	oustic	Fire
			Rw	Ln,w	rating
1		 283 x 64 mm deep C-section at 450 crs 19 mm particleboard flooring to all interior areas Suspension system and furring channel at 600 crs 2 x 13 mm fire-protective plasterboard ceilings 	57	NA	60/60/60 CSR 6267
2		 283 x 64 mm deep C-section at 450 crs 18 mm fibre cement to all wet areas and balcony Suspension system and furring channel at 600 crs 2 x 13 mm fire-protective plasterboard ceilings 	57	NA	60/60/60 CSR 6267

Table A2: Floor systems.

A3 Beams

Beams were used over openings in walls or rooms to break up the floor joist spans. They were incorporated into fire-rating of the ceiling and therefore required no additional fire-resistance protection.

A4 Columns

Columns were used to support the floor beams on the ground level. These columns are required to be fire-rated to 60/60/60 and their fire resistance was provided by 2 x 13 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard.

A5 Roof/Ceiling Space to Top-Most Storey

What was applied to the model:

- Floors
 - 75 mm non-combustible glass wool batts are used 1,200 mm either side of the acoustic rated wall, refer Figure A1.

Reasons:

- All system used meets NCC minimum requirements
- Systems configuration between steel and timber are effectively the same.

How does this compare with the timber design?

- The system configuration is effectively the same for both materials considered in the cost comparison.
- All other cost has been assumed to be the same although there maybe variations, they were too insignificant to consider.

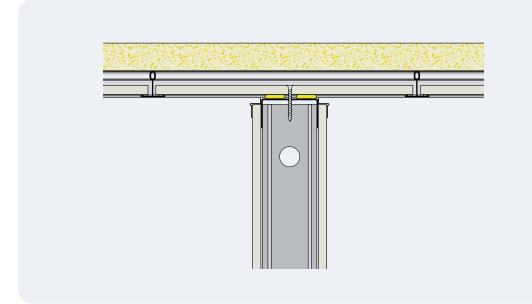
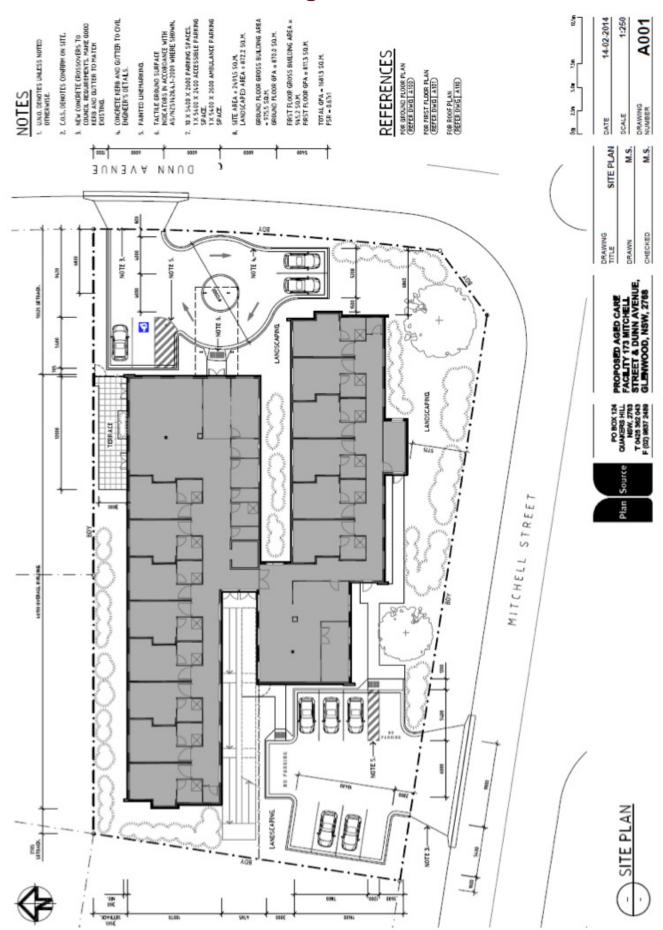
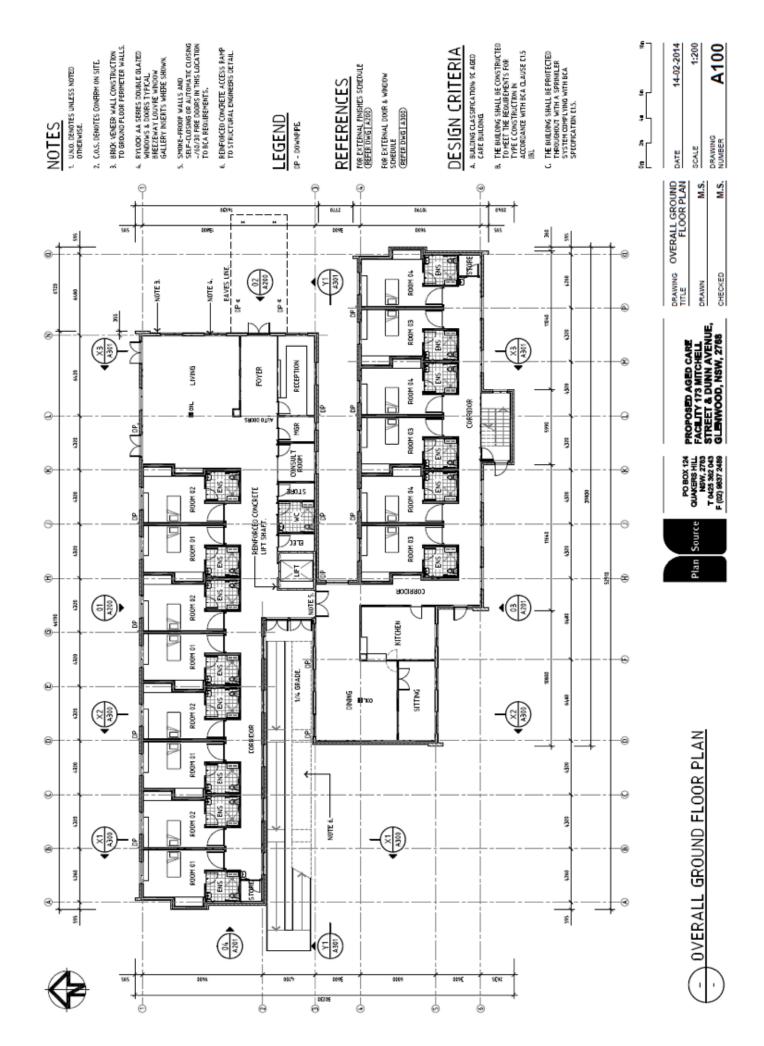


Figure A1: Sound-rated insulation above top-most ceiling.

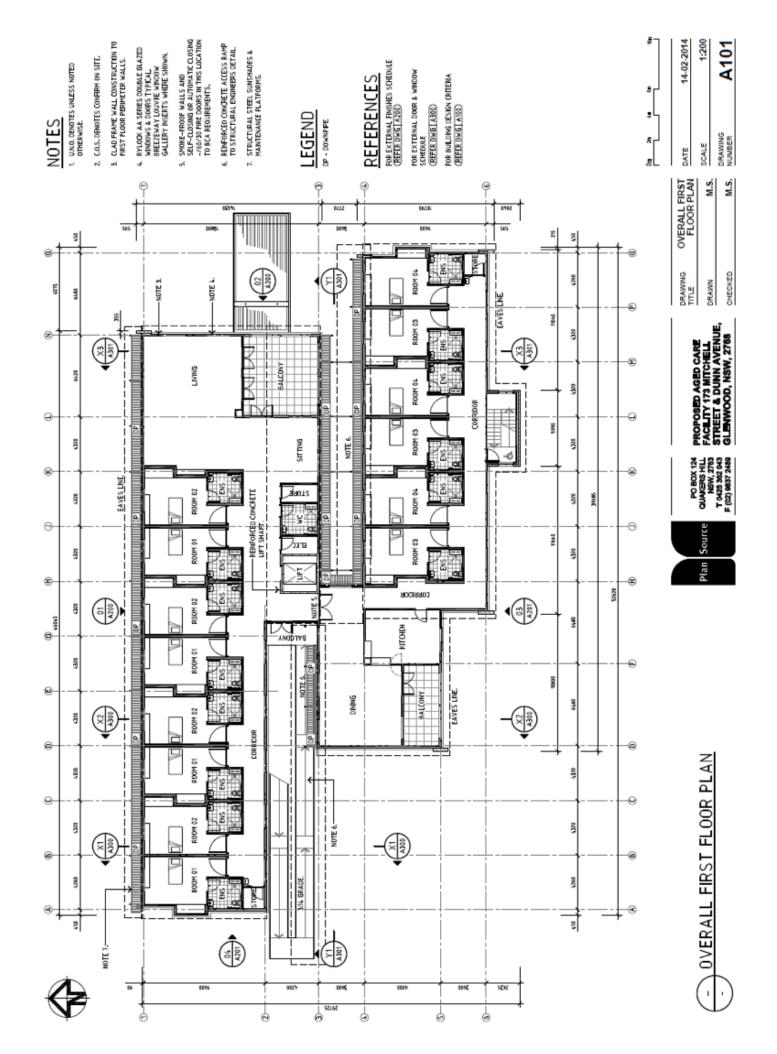
³CSR system 110

Appendix B: Complete Architectural Drawings

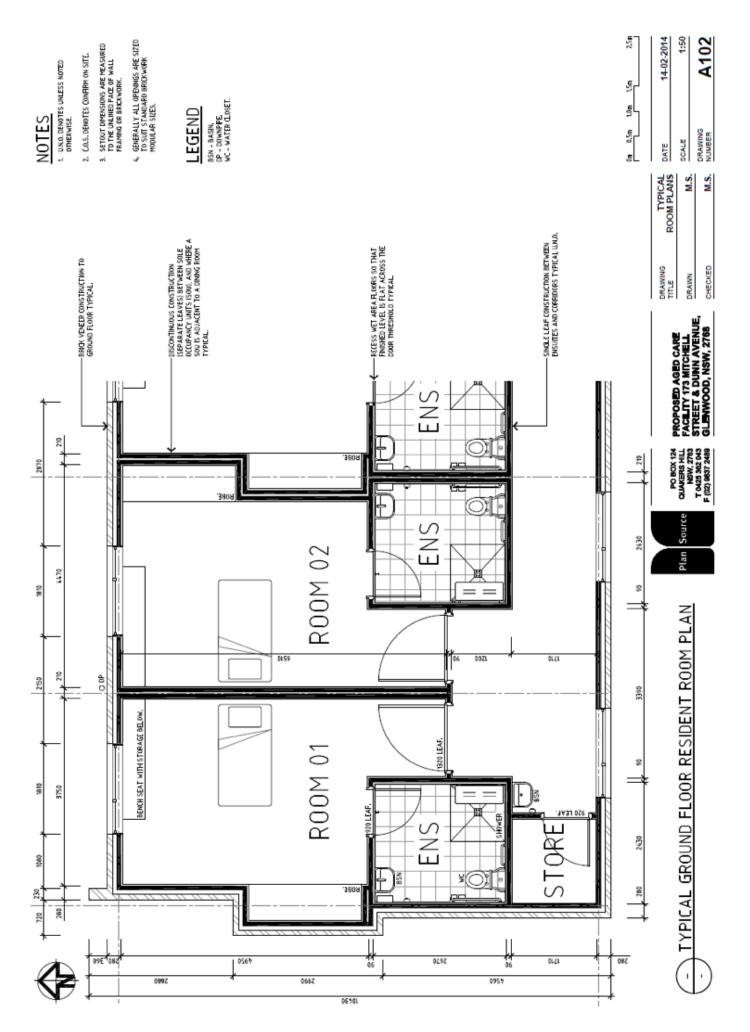




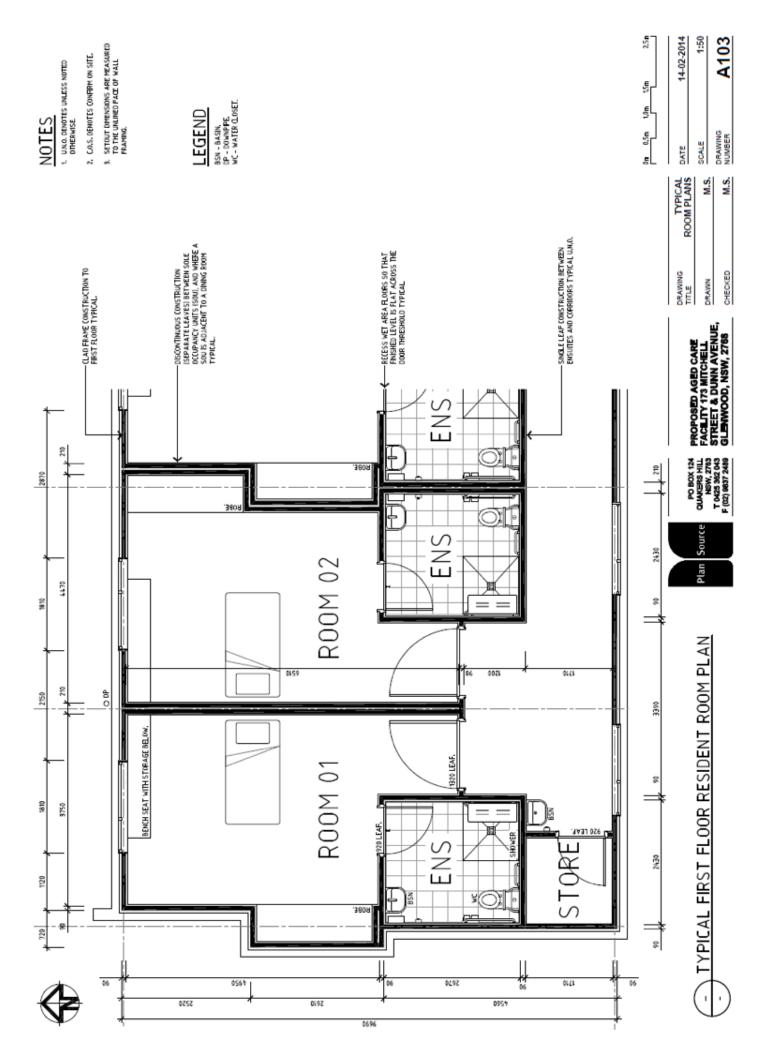
#28 • Rethinking Aged Care Construction - Consider Timber



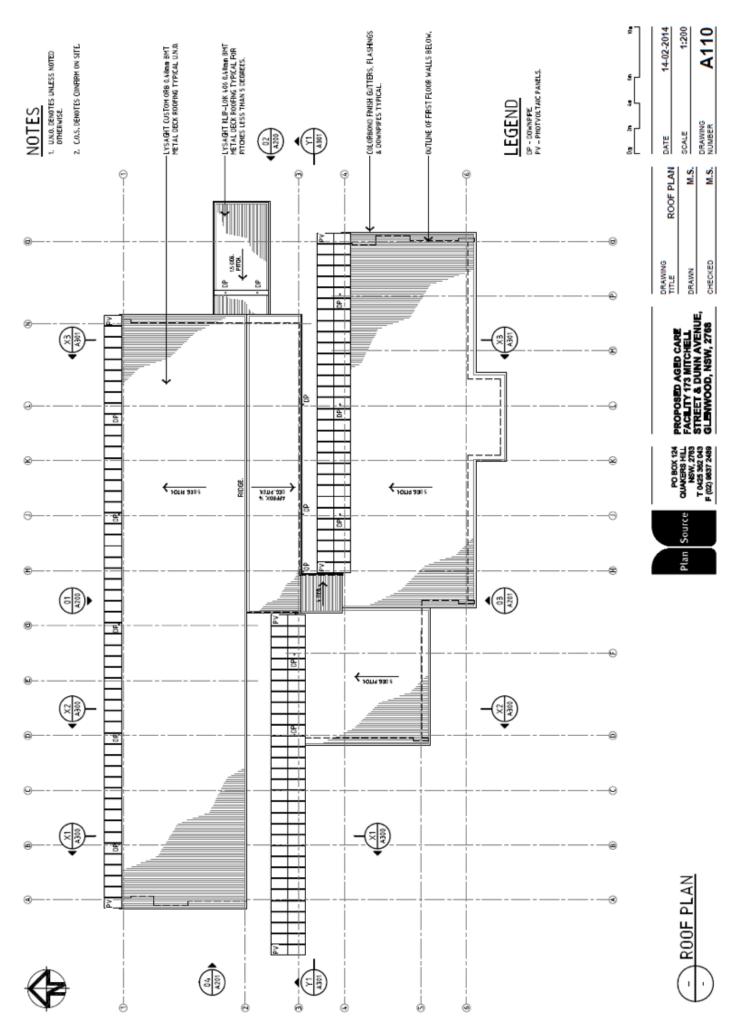
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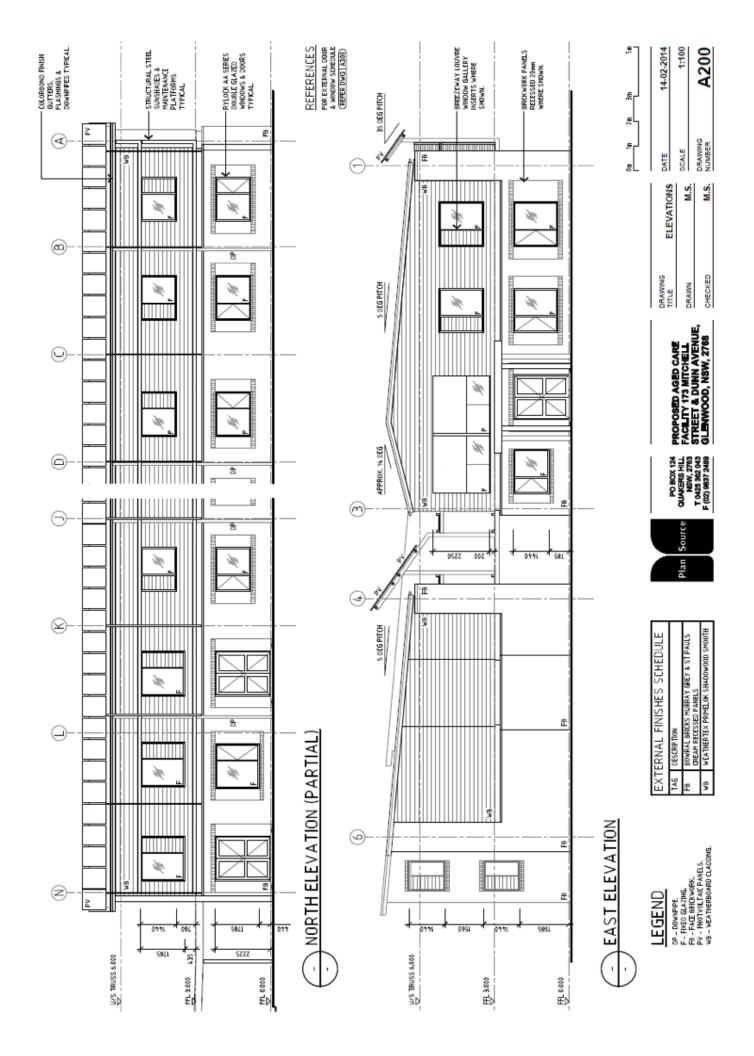
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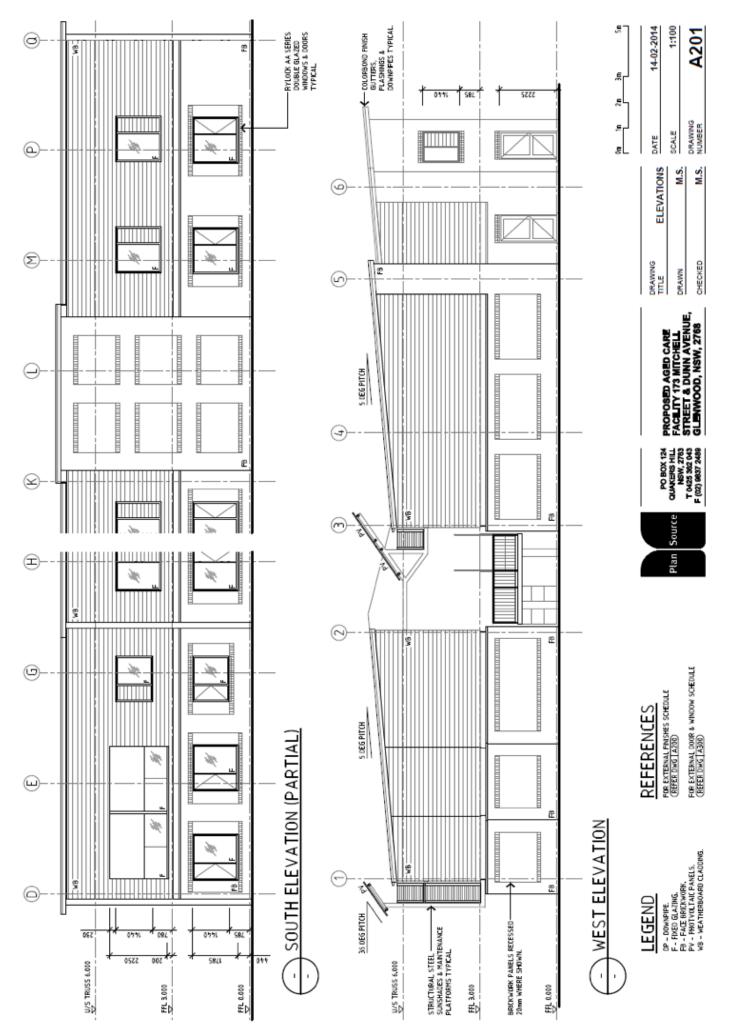


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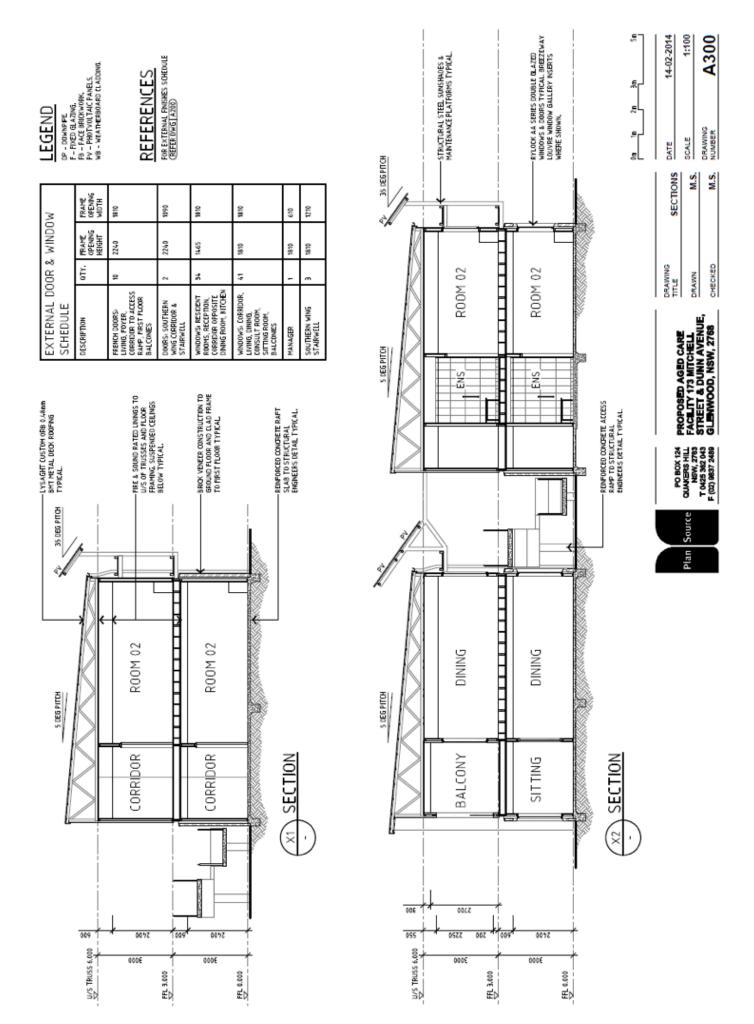


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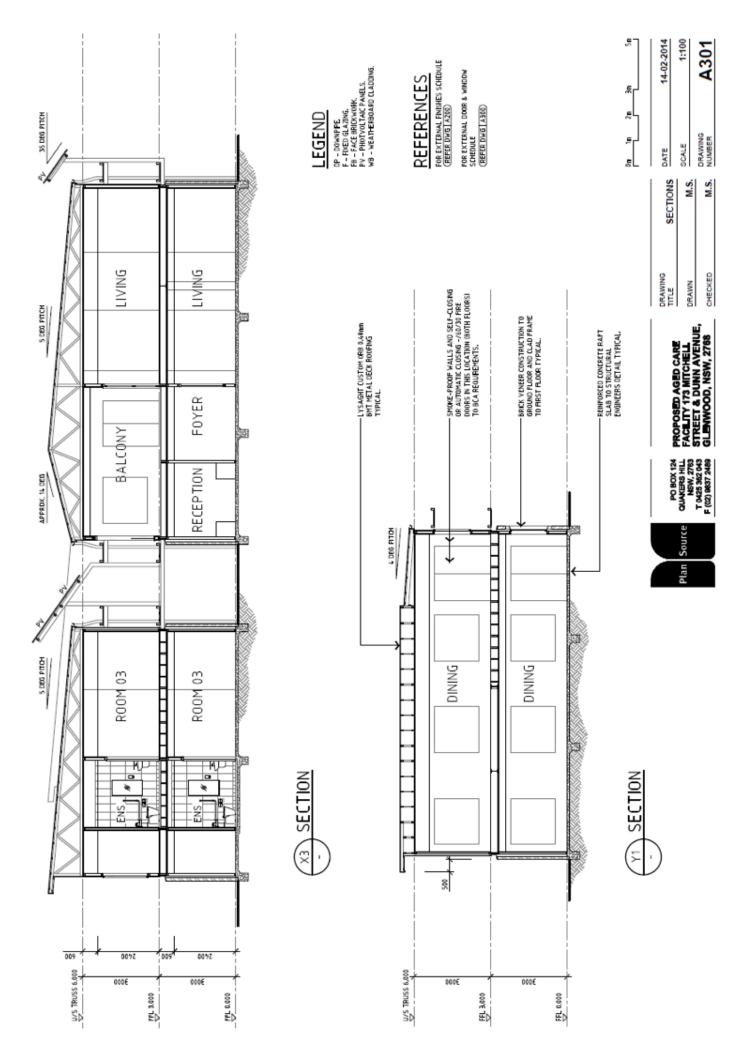




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Appendix C: Detailed Cost Information

Project Name: Aged Care Building - Timber Framed

Client Name: Timber Development Association for Forest and Wood Products Australia

Ele	ement	\$/m² GFA	Quantity	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Cost (\$)
			1,501	m²	\$603.38	\$905,674
Co	lumns	\$1.76				\$2,646
1	115 x 115 LVL15 column, 3000 long	\$0.95	14	No.	\$102	\$1,430
Up	per Floors	\$35.91				\$53,898
1	Beam B1; 3/300 x 58 LVL 15, Ref B1, 2000 long	\$0.10	1	No.	\$174	\$150
2	Beam B2; 2/240 x 42 LVL 15, Ref B2, 3000 long	\$0.33	4	No.	\$123	\$492
3	Beam B3; 2/240 x 58 LVL 15, Ref B3, 3000 long	\$0.62	6	No.	\$156	\$938
4	Beam B4; 170 x 58 LVL 15, Ref B4, 2000 long	\$0.17	5	No.	\$52	\$262
5	Beam B5; 2/240 x 42 LVL 15, Ref B5, 3600 long	\$0.20	2	No.	\$148	\$295
6	Beam B6; 240 x 75 LVL 15, Ref B6, 3600 long	\$0.27	3	No.	\$133	\$398
7	Beam B7; 2/240 x 75 LVL 15, Ref B7, 4500 long	\$0.38	2	No.	\$287	\$575
8	I-Joists 360 x 90	\$7.97	352	m	\$34	\$11,968
9	I-Joists 200 x 44	\$25.86	1,941	m	\$20	\$38,820
Ro	of	\$58.20				\$87,351
1	Prefabricated timber truss, 13700 long, unequal pitch 5° and 14°	\$11.53	39	No.	\$444	\$17,308
2	Prefabricated timber truss, 9600 long, pitch 5°, 600 mm overhang at end	\$12.98	45	No.	\$433	\$19,485
3	Prefabricated timber truss, 12100 long, pitch 5°	\$5.19	18	No.	\$433	\$7,794
4	Prefabricated timber truss, 9600 long, pitch 5°	\$11.24	39	No.	\$433	\$16,876
5	Prefabricated timber truss, 3000 long, pitch 4°	\$1.34	7	No.	\$287	\$2,008
6	Timber bracing to trusses	\$15.91	597	m	\$40	\$23,880
Се	ilings	\$105.70				\$158,663
1	Under Roof, suspension system, 1 x 13 mm flush fixed standard plasterboard and 75 fibreglass insulation	\$45.30	735	m²	\$92	\$67,988
2	Upper Floor: suspension system, 2 x 13 mm fire-protective flush fixed plasterboard, and 75 fibreglass insulation	\$60.40	775	m²	\$117	\$90,675
Ex	ternal Wall	\$181.13				\$271,878
1	Lower Floor: 90 x 35 studs at 600 crs, Interior lined with 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, and 75 mm insulation. Exterior cladding 110 mm common clay bricks	\$115.33	18	No.	\$433	\$7,794
2	Upper Floor: 90 x 35 studs at 600 crs, Interior lined with 13 mm impact board and Standard grade plasterboard, and 75 mm insulation. Exterior timber cladding	\$65.80	226	m	\$437	\$98,762

Client Name: Timber Development Association for Forest and Wood Products Australia

Ele	ment	\$/m² GFA	Quantity	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Cost (\$)
Inte	ernal Walls	\$221.49				\$332,454
1	Lower floor – SY1: Staggered studs 90 x 35 plates & 70 x 45 studs at 300 crs and 75 mm glass insulation. Lined with 13 mm impact board and Standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$17.94	3,831	m	\$30	\$114,930
2	Upper floor – SY1: Staggered studs 90 x 35 plates & 70 x 35 studs at 300 crs and 75 mm glass insulation. Lined with 13 mm impact board and Standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.		47	m	\$573	\$26,931
3	Lower floor – SY2: Staggered studs 90 x 35 plates & 70 x 45 studs at 300 crs and 75 mm glass insulation. Lined with 1 x 16 mm fire-protective and moisture resistant grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$17.63	47	m	\$563	\$26,461
4	Upper floor – SY2: Staggered studs 90 x 35 plates & 70 x 35 studs at 300 crs and 75 mm glass insulation. Lined with 1 x 13 mm moisture resistant grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$7.20	17	m	\$636	\$10,812
5	Lower floor – SY3: Staggered studs 90 x 35 plates & 70 x 45 studs at 300 crs and 75 mm glass insulation. Lined with 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$6.16	17	m	\$544	\$9,248
6	Upper floor – SY3: Staggered studs 90 x 35 plates & 70 x 35 studs at 300 crs and 75 mm glass insulation. Lined with 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$42.52	111	m	\$575	\$63,825
7	Lower floor – SY4: 90 x 35 plates and studs at 600 crs. Lined with 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$41.93	111	m	\$567	\$62,937
8	Upper floor – SY4: 90 x 35 plates and studs at 600 crs. Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$7.72	23	m	\$504	\$11,592
9	Lower floor – SY5: 90 x 35 plates and studs at 600 crs. Lined with 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$2.01	6	m	\$504	\$3,024
10	Upper floor – SY5: 90 x 35 plates and studs at 600 crs. Lined with 1 x 13 mm impact board and Standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$38.51	114	m	\$507	\$57,798
11	Lower floor – smoke wall: 90 x 35 plates and studs at 600 crs. Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$38.51	114	m	\$507	\$57,798
12	Upper floor – smoke wall: 90 x 35 plates and studs at 600 crs. Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$0.68	2	m	\$507	\$1,014
Pre	liminaries Adjustment	\$0.00				\$0
1	Provision of time related preliminaries based on the duration of structure construction time.					
2	Preliminaries based on reduced Construction duration of:	\$0.00	0	Weeks		\$0
Tota	al Cost					\$905,674

Notes

- 1. The cost estimates are priced at April 2020 prices and based on construction in the Sydney region.
- 2. Timber frame construction will have a marginally faster construction program than steel, but this has been ignored in this comparison.
- 3. The timber frame rates are based on feedback from the Sydney market.

Client Name: Timber Development Association for Forest and Wood Products Australia

Ele	ement	\$/m² GFA	Quantity	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Cost (\$)
			1,501	m²	\$618.05	\$927,698
Co	lumns	\$2.70				\$4,050
1	89 x 89 x 3.5 SHS column, 3000 long; 9.06 kg/m	\$1.71	10	No.	\$257	\$2,570
2	2 x 16 mm fire-protective plasterboard	\$0.99	10	No.	\$148	\$1,480
Up	per Floors	\$56.90				\$85,400
1	Beam B1; 180UB16.1, Ref B1, 2000 long	\$0.17	1	No.	\$255	\$255
2	Beam B2; RHS 125 x 75 x 3.0; Ref B2, 3000 long; 24 kg/m	\$1.63	4	No.	\$612	\$2,448
3	Beam B3; RHS 125 x 75 x 3.0, Ref B3, 3000 long; 24 kg/m	\$2.45	6	No.	\$612	\$3,672
4	Beam B4; RHS 125 x 75 x 3.0; Ref B4, 2000 long, 24 kg/m	\$1.36	5	No.	\$408	\$2040
5	Beam B5; 150UB14, Ref B5, 3600 long	\$0.53	2	No.	\$398	\$796
6	Beam B6; RHS 125 x 75 x 3.0, Ref B6, 3600 long; 24 kg/m	\$1.47	3	No.	\$734	\$2,202
7	Beam B7; 180UB16.1, Ref B7, 4500 long	\$0.76	2	No.	\$572	\$1,144
8	Joist; Stramit J28324; 283 x 64 @ 450 crs; to Upper Floors, 8.04 kg/m	\$8.44	352	m	\$36	\$12,672
9	Joist; Stramit J28319; 283 x 64 @ 450 crs; to Upper Floors, 6.37 kg/m	\$40.09	1,941	m	\$31	\$60,171
Ro	of	\$58.20				\$87,351
1	Prefabricated timber truss, 13,700 long, unequal pitch 5° and 14°	\$11.78	27	No.	\$655	\$17,685
2	Prefabricated timber truss, 9,600 long, pitch 5°, 600 mm overhang at end	\$13.22	31	No.	\$640	\$19,840
3	Prefabricated timber truss, 12,100 long, pitch 5°	\$5.54	13	No.	\$640	\$8,320
4	Prefabricated timber truss, 9,600 long, pitch 5°	\$11.09	26	No.	\$640	\$16,640
5	Prefabricated timber truss, 3,000 long, pitch 4°	\$1.43	5	No.	\$430	\$2,150
6	Timber bracing to trusses	\$15.24	597	m	\$40	\$22,880
Се	ilings	\$105.70				\$158,663
1	Under Roof, suspension system, 1 x 13 mm flush fixed standard plasterboard and 75 fibreglass insulation	\$45.30	735	m²	\$92	\$67,988
2	Upper Floor: suspension system, 2 x 13 mm fire-protective flush fixed plasterboard, and 75 fibreglass insulation	\$60.40	775	m²	\$117	\$90,675
Ex	ternal Wall	\$177.67				\$266,680
1	Lower Floor: 92 mm studs at 600 crs, Interior lined with 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, and 75 mm insulation. Exterior cladding 110 mm common clay bricks	\$113.68	226	m	\$755	\$170,630
2	Upper Floor: 92 mm studs at 600 crs, Interior lined with 13 mm impact board and Standard grade plasterboard, and 75 mm insulation. Exterior timber cladding	\$63.99	226	m	\$425	\$96,050

Client Name: Timber Development Association for Forest and Wood Products Australia

Element Internal Walls		\$/m² GFA \$216.78	Quantity	Unit	Unit Rate (\$)	Cost (\$) \$325,390
2	Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$17.44	47	m	\$557	\$26,179
3	Upper floor – SY1: 92 mm Quiet Studs at 600 crs and 75 mm glass insulation.	\$7.02	17	m	\$620	\$10,540
4	Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$6.09	17	m	\$538	\$9,146
5	Lower floor – SY2: 92 mm Quiet Studs at 600 crs and 75 mm glass insulation. Lined with 1 x 16 mm fire-protective and moisture resistant grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$41.26	111	m	\$558	\$61,938
6	Upper floor – SY3: 92 mm Quiet Studs at 600 crs and 75 mm glass insulation. Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$41.49	111	m	\$561	\$62,271
7	Lower floor – SY4: 92 mm studs at 600 crs. Lined with 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$7.55	23	m	\$493	\$11,339
8	Upper floor – SY4: 92 mm studs at 600 crs. Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of wall.	\$1.97	6	m	\$493	\$2,958
9	Lower floor – SY5: 92 mm studs at 600 crs. Lined with 1 x 16 mm fire-protective grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$37.59	114	m	\$495	\$56,430
10	Upper floor – SY5: 92 mm studs at 600 crs. Lined with 1x 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of the wall.	\$37.59	114	m	\$495	\$56,430
11	Lower floor – smoke wall: 92 mm studs at 600 crs. Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of wall.	\$0.66	2	m	\$495	\$990
12	Upper floor – smoke wall: 92 mm studs at 600 crs. Lined with 13 mm impact board and standard grade plasterboard, both sides of wall.	\$0.66	2	m	\$495	\$990
Preliminaries Adjustment		\$0.00				\$0
1	Provision of time related preliminaries based on the duration of structure construction time.					
2	Preliminaries based on reduced Construction duration of:	\$0.00	0	Weeks		\$0
Tota	al Cost					\$927,698

Notes

- 1. The cost estimates are priced at April 2020 prices and based on construction in the Sydney Region.
- 2. The steelwork is assumed to be pre-fabricated and bolted together on site with minimum welding required.
- 3. The steel roof trusses included above are relatively high cost compared to standard timber trusses.



Over 50 technical guides cover aspects ranging from design to durability, specification to detailing. Including worked drawings, they are an invaluable resource for ensuring timber-related projects comply with the National Construction Code (NCC). Download them now from WoodSolutions.com.au, the website for wood.

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- 3 Timber-framed Construction for Commercial Buildings Class 5, 6, 9a & 9b
- 4 Building with timber in bushfire-prone areas
- 5 Timber service life design design guide for durability
- 6 Timber-framed Construction sacrificial timber construction joint
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