

## THE BLUESTONE HOUSE - CASE STUDY

November 2020

### WHAT WAS THE CHALLENGE?

challenge.



The Bluestone House was built in 1909 and the current homeowners wanted to create a larger living area and more comfortable environment by adding an extension. To maintain the integrity of the building the extension was built with calcrete or limestone paddock stone.

### WHAT PRODUCTS WERE USED?

create.



When considering the best insulation product to provide high thermal performance that would also be suitable for fully filling the cavity in the calcrete extension walls, homeowner Sharon Rowett chose Earthwool® DriTherm® Cavity slab. The product is silicone treated and semi-rigid with a high vapour resistivity to prevent moisture transmission to the inner leaf. "It was important that the extension complimented the original building, which is why we chose to use calcrete, however, we also wanted to ensure the walls had high thermal performance and after doing some research and from the advice of our builder we decided to go with DriTherm® Cavity slab," said Sharon Rowett, owner of the Bluestone House.

"We also required an insulation product that would withstand weather variance and in particular rain and the moisture resisting properties of DriTherm® Cavity slab made it ideal for the extension."

Another key factor in the choice of this product was Knauf Insulation's approach to environmental considerations. DriTherm® Cavity slab is made using recycled glass and with ECOSE® Technology, a binder based on rapidly renewable materials instead of petro-based chemicals, which contains no added formaldehyde. "I was pleased to find that Knauf Insulation had introduced their leading cavity wall insulation into Australia. It was important for us to use a product that had high sustainability credentials and DriTherm® Cavity slab met this criterion and more," Sharon added.

### WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

care.



DriTherm® Cavity slab is silicone treated, so water cannot pass from the outer wall to the inner wall, which eased any concerns the homeowners had about moisture entering the house. The 50 year warranty also provided added peace of mind. DriTherm® Cavity slab has been successful in the UK for several years and has also been used in PassivHaus applications where the design focus is to significantly lower energy consumption and the impact on the environment. The history of use coupled with the proven material performance of 1.4 m<sup>2</sup>K/W, also ensured that not only was the environmental criteria satisfied but also high thermal performance would be achieved. "The team at Knauf Insulation were incredibly helpful and the service provided was excellent," Sharon added.

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