

The below answer sheet is for your own self-assessment.  
Please keep your completed questionnaires and answers on file for your record.  
These do not need to be sent to CPD Live. CPD-Live will send you certificate.

Proudly supported by



# Why Bio-Based & Rapidly Renewable Building Materials Matter

## 1. What are bio-based building materials?

Bio-based building materials are building components derived from natural, living organisms (such as plants, fungi, and bacteria).

## 2. Provide two examples of bio-based building materials.

Answers include any two of the following:

- Timber
- Algae
- Fungi
- Wool
- Cotton
- Straw
- Bamboo
- Hemp

## 3. What is mycelium and what building applications can it be used for?

Mycelium, the root structure of mushrooms, can be used for insulation, acoustic panels, and lightweight building blocks.

## 4. Name the barriers that have slowed or prevented the widespread introduction of bio-based building materials.

Barriers include high costs, technical constraints, conservative industry regulations, and a lack of awareness regarding the benefits of these products, both within industry and the broader community.

## 5. How important is supply chain sovereignty in this context?

Supply chain sovereignty – or having local control over the sourcing, production, and distribution – is important because the use of bio-based materials often relies on locally available natural resources. Reducing dependence on imported materials ensures the sector is resilient to global disruptions, supports local economies, lowers transportation emissions, and improves sustainability.

## 6. If Australia is to increase its use of bio-based building materials, why is it important that we develop local expertise?

Developing local expertise enables Australia to effectively produce, test, and use bio-based building materials that are suited to local climates and conditions. It helps ensure these materials meet Australian standards and regulations while improving their performance and reliability. Building this knowledge also promotes innovation and reduces reliance on overseas specialists, making it easier to adopt these materials widely. Overall, it supports a more sustainable and resilient construction industry.