

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ECOVILLAGE AWARDED WORLD'S BEST ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT**

THE Ecovillage at Currumbin has been recognised as a world leader in ecologically sustainable development after taking out the World's Best Environmental Development at the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) Prix d'Excellence Awards in the Netherlands last night.

The prestigious award, presented at the opening ceremony of the World Congress of the FIABCI in Amsterdam, recognised the Ecovillage as a project that exudes disciplinary excellence through all elements of the development's creation. A panel of judges evaluated more than 100 International development projects for the Prix d'Excellence Awards.

The Ecovillage at Currumbin has already won a multitude of awards having notched up more than 23 development gongs since its conception. But this one is the crème de la crème for its developers having been recognised on the international world stage.

Managing Director of The Ecovillage, Chris Walton and partner Kerry Shepherd, travelled to Amsterdam to collect the award at the international congress. Mr Walton said it felt like 'winning gold at the Olympics'.

"It's a dream come true because we originally set out to create a benchmark project to role model sustainability and inspire the world, this is truly a win for Australian innovation," he said.

"We were advised by the judges that the standard of entrants this year in the environmental category were very high so it is indeed an honour for our project to be granted recognition at this level by such an esteemed international body."

President of the FIABCI awards, Kumar Tharmalingam said the Ecovillage is leading the way in enviro-conscious developments providing real world solutions to reduce carbon emissions.

"The judges were impressed that there is this initiative in Australia that is looking at the world wide building industry and providing real hands on carbon positive solutions to construction and development," said Mr Tharmalingham.

"As a responsible UN endorsed NGO, FIABCI supports such initiatives and seeks to provide international recognition through the FIABCI Prix D' Excellence Award."

Each development entry was evaluated by a panel of expert industry professionals from across the globe, with respect to design, construction, financial viability, marketing strategy, facilities management, impact on the environment and benefit to the community.

Chris Walton said while the Ecovillage strives to offer a superlative lifestyle, there is no compromise in genuinely addressing sustainability or environmental issues.

"The challenge of this century is how to live a sustainable lifestyle – in harmony with nature, enjoying community and a modern quality of life, all elements of Ecovillage at Currumbin," said Mr Walton.

"Complete water self-sufficiency of the entire Ecovillage community was credited by the judges, as well as its solar energy initiatives and the many other sustainability and social objectives featured."

Currently there are a handful of remaining lots available in the development, with the future release of the "Highlands" elevated acreage precinct scheduled to become available in August. Expressions of interest are now being accepted.

The Ecovillage is a residential subdivision incorporating self sufficiency in water, solar power for each home, community initiatives, state-of-the-art architectural codes for 144 eco-friendly subtropical homes and food productivity.

Located on a magnificent 110ha site on the southern Gold Coast, The Ecovillage at Currumbin has been created to inspire sustainable living and development practice. Ecovillage is a residential community that exemplifies the world's best practice in ecologically sustainable development

The project has been the brainchild of husband and wife team Chris Walton and Kerry Shepherd, who along with their friend Colin Bear created LandMatters, a leading development company with a vision to set a benchmark for the industry to follow.

The Ecovillage is located at 639 Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Valley, Queensland, Australia. The Ecovillage Sales office is open every day from 10am- 5pm.

For more information please visit [www.theecovillage.com.au](http://www.theecovillage.com.au) or call Martin Jackson on (07)55987355.

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