

Torquay Home Displays Sustainable Benefits

Member for Hervey Bay, Andrew McNamara has officially opened the latest in a series of environment-friendly display homes as part of the Queensland Government's Sustainable Homes Program.

The Hervey Bay City Council has played an instrumental role building the sustainable display home in Honiton St, Torquay, donating land and \$200,000 towards the construction.

"The Sustainable Homes Program is gathering a lot of momentum, with more than 30 sustainable homes now in the scheme. It's a unique collaboration between state and local governments and industry," Mr McNamara said.

"The Torquay home will be open to the public for six to twelve months demonstrating the principles of best practice sustainable housing and allowing the community to inspect and appreciate the design features first hand," he said.

The house has been designed with Hervey Bay's sub-tropical coastal climate and high humidity in mind, and is responsive to the hot summer, mild winter, definite dry season and distinct seasonal temperature variation.

The 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home will be an appropriate size and layout for several different family types. It is envisaged the house will have room for a family with 2 or 3 children, and will have the potential to accommodate elderly relatives, overnight guests, or a home office.

Mr McNamara said around 80% of building industry professionals are now aware of the Smart Housing concept, up quite considerably on the level of awareness in 2001 which stood at 31%.

"This is an exciting overall project and I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this fantastic, environmentally sustainable home here in Hervey Bay.

"The cooperation and enthusiasm of everybody involved in this project have demonstrated the willingness of private enterprise and local government to join with the State Government in its quest to make Queensland the Smart State," Mr McNamara said.

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