

Minister Launches Smart and Sustainable Living DVD at Expo

Member for Rockhampton Robert Swarten will launch the new Smart and Sustainable Homes DVD at the Rockhampton Home Show and Outdoor Adventure Expo 2007 on Friday, 24 August.

The DVD was developed by the Smart and Sustainable Homes Program, managed by the Department of Public Works.

“The Smart Housing initiative satisfies the demand for housing that better meets people’s needs, including responding to the Queensland climate, while saving money,” Mr Swarten said.

“Smart Housing is good practice in designing, planning and building to meet the triple-bottom-line of sustainability.

“In a Smart House, you can move around more easily, feel safer, save money and help the environment.

“You and your family can live in a Smart House through all stages of your lives,” he said.

Mr Swarten said the Smart Housing Design Objectives were arranged to assist designers, architects and home owners with developing a brief for a house and to demonstrate the range of viable solutions available.

The Queensland Government has been at the forefront in sustainable housing research with the construction of Research House in Rockhampton in 2001. The four bedroom home was built to demonstrate new technologies and innovative design, incorporating the Smart Housing principles.

The home has been occupied by a family of four since October 2002 and data on water and energy use, and temperature, have been collected and analysed. More information on Research House, including a virtual tour and data reports, can be found on www.build.qld.gov.au

The Sustainable Homes Program developed in the Year of the Built Environment 2004, aims to provide communities throughout Queensland with display homes that incorporate principles of sustainable design and performance using Smart Housing Design Objectives as the minimum criteria.

Mr Swarten said the homes were distinct because they were designed and constructed as practical examples of sustainability for each of the four different climatic zones within Queensland. The homes displayed the ‘triple-bottom-line’ approach to housing design and construction.

“This approach balances the three essential smart housing elements of environmental, social and economic sustainability,” Mr Swarten said.

“In a national first, the Sustainable Homes Program is a collaborative partnership among State and local governments, and key housing industry stakeholders,” he said.

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“A range of supporters are also involved with each project, such as product sponsors and technical consultants.”

Sustainable Home Livingstone project is managed by the Livingstone Shire Council. It was built by Latitude Homes and is endorsed by the Queensland Government’s Department of Public Works Sustainable Homes Program.

“By applying sustainable design principles, the home demonstrates how we can all work towards the creation of more sustainable communities,” Mr Schwarten said.

The Capricorn Blue project in Yeppoon is the first unit complex endorsed by the Sustainable Homes Program. Construction is underway with completion planned for September.

Sustainable Home Livingstone opened on 7 July and is located at 7 Kookaburra Drive, Yeppoon. The home is open for public display for six months and people can view the features on display in the home on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 1pm.

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Editors Please Note:

The launch of the DVD will take place at 12pm in the Rotunda at the Rockhampton Home Show. Visit the Smart and Sustainable Homes team in the Walter Pierce Pavilion.

For more information on the Sustainable Homes Program and Smart Housing go to www.sustainable-homes.org.au and www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au