

Sustainable Home Mackay opens

The latest demonstration home in Queensland's Smart and Sustainable Homes Program has been opened in Mackay by Member for Mackay Tim Mulherin, Minister for Public Works Robert Swarten said today.

Mr Swarten said Sustainable Home Mackay is the first duplex development to be built as part of the Sustainable Homes Program.

"Sustainable Home Mackay will be open to the public for three months demonstrating principles of sustainable housing allowing people to inspect and appreciate these special design features first-hand," Mr Swarten said.

"The building has been inspired by the region's tropical and coastal aspects and designed to optimise occupant comfort in Mackay's hot, humid climate through passive design.

"The orientation of the house was also taken into account to maximise the northern/southern exposure, with the living areas located on the northern side of the house and the sleeping areas in the south."

"This assists the passive design of the home which means it does not require mechanical heating or cooling. The home takes advantage of natural energy flows to maintain thermal comfort," he said.

Peter Town of Peter Town Homes has been a driving force behind the project as developer/builder. Mark Nicholls Architect Pty Ltd provided the design while the Mackay City Council supported the project and will be staffing the display.

"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 Swarten said.

"The Smart and Sustainable Homes Program is a unique collaboration between the State Government, local government and industry.

"Homes built under Smart and Sustainable Homes Program follow the Department of Public Works 'Smart and Sustainable Homes' principles which are based on the triple-bottom-line concept of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

"The Sustainable Homes Program is gathering momentum, with more than 30 sustainable homes now in the scheme," the Minister said.

Sustainable Home Mackay, located at 23B Charles Hodge Avenue, Mt Pleasant, will be open to the public from Saturday 16 February 2008 and will be open each Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am to 2.00pm.