



Year of the Built Environment 2004  
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

## ***Year of the Built Environment (YBE)***

### ***Sustainable Demonstration Houses Program***

#### ***Newsletter 1***

*August 2004*

#### ***Vision***

*Increase the uptake of more sustainable housing practice among Queensland industry and consumers.*

*Sustainable housing is defined as designing, planning and building dwellings to make them more socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.*

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Sustainable Housing Demonstration Housing Program. This is the first in a series of regular updates on the Year of the Built Environment Sustainable Housing Demonstration Houses Program.

#### **Year of the Built Environment – Demonstration Houses Program official launch**

The Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing, Robert Swarten officially launched the Year of the Built Environment (YBE) Demonstration Houses Program at a public ceremony in Roma Street Parklands, Brisbane on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2004. Wayne Petrie, Chairman of the Year of the Built Environment, opened proceedings and attendees included representatives from the YBE 2004 Steering Committee.



Left to right: Heather Lloyd, AGDF; Lea McNoulty, Natural Lifestyle Homes; Jim McNoulty, AGDF; Wayne Petrie, YBE; Paula Whitman, RAI

For more information on the launch, refer to [www.ybe2004.qld.gov.au/news/mediaReleases.asp](http://www.ybe2004.qld.gov.au/news/mediaReleases.asp).

#### **Sustainable Housing Demonstration Project team**

Ross Mehrten and Cathy Keys from Project Services, Department of Public Works have joined Wayne Petrie and the YBE 2004 co-ordination team.

Ross is co-ordinating the delivery of the demonstration homes and Cathy is facilitating communication between project participants.

The team is currently working on communication and construction guidelines to assist councils in all parts of Queensland engaging with the Sustainable Housing Demonstration Program.

Ross and Cathy can be contacted on the following:

Ross Mehrton - [ross.mehrton@projectservices.qld.gov.au](mailto:ross.mehrton@projectservices.qld.gov.au) or telephone: (07) 3227 7759

Cathy Keys - [cathy.keys@projectservices.qld.gov.au](mailto:cathy.keys@projectservices.qld.gov.au) or telephone: (07) 322 77214  
(available Monday, Tuesday and Friday).

### **Local Government interest**

There has been an overwhelming response to the Sustainable Housing Demonstration Program with over 30 councils from across Queensland registering their interest. The following councils have made formal submissions:

Atherton	Emerald	Mornington	Townsville
Barcaldine	Fitzroy	Mt Isa	
Bauhinia	Gladstone	Mundubbera	
Booringa	Gold Coast	Murgon	
Brisbane	Hervey Bay	Nebo	
Burdekin	Hinchinbrook	Noosa	
Caboolture	Kingaroy	Perry	
Caloundra	Livingstone	Rockhampton	
Charters Towers	Mackay	Thuringowa	
Chinchilla	Maryborough	Toowoomba	

We will soon be encouraging the contact officers from each council to share information and experiences with other interested councils. This process will be facilitated by means of a contact list for distribution as a key starting point.

### **Next steps**

Expressions of Interest are currently being reviewed by the YBE Demonstration Houses Steering Committee. The success of this program hinges on the capacity of individual councils to build a demonstration house and develop localised communication strategies.

With the support of the steering committee, a design brief will then be developed based on current local market analysis, addressing the environmental, economic and social issues fundamental to sustainable housing.

### **Project snapshots**

We are excited to report developments with the following councils.

- Thuringowa City Council - has a growing population and has selected a site in Kelso for a sustainable house development project. A reference group is now being formed to advance the project.
- Harvey Bay City Council – has committed to the program and the Demonstration House project team will be visiting in August.
- Mackay City Council - the Demonstration House project team visited Mackay in August to workshop the project and present to the council.
- Gold Coast City Council – is probably the most advanced project. Gold Coast has selected Heritage Pacific to build a house in their new 700-home site, Genesis estate, estate at Amity Road, Coomera.
- Brisbane Project – is seeking to engage with the Centre for Sub Tropical Design. The development of a design brief is well underway.

## Useful web links

Please see the following links for further information on sustainable housing:

- [www.ybe2004.qld.gov.au](http://www.ybe2004.qld.gov.au)
- [www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au](http://www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au)

## Stay in touch

Your involvement is important to the success of this program and the ongoing development of sustainable housing throughout Queensland.

The Demonstration Houses Project Team depends on your feedback, comments and suggestions. We also welcome contributions to this newsletter.

To contact a member of the Demonstration Houses Project Team:

Cathy Keys - email [cathy.keys@projectservices.qld.gov.au](mailto:cathy.keys@projectservices.qld.gov.au) or telephone (07) 322 77214 (available Monday, Tuesday, Friday)

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*If you no longer wish to receive the e-newsletter, send an email to [cathy.keys@projectservices.qld.gov.au](mailto:cathy.keys@projectservices.qld.gov.au).*