

Sustainable Home Program

Thanks for the Year

The Sustainable Home Team and the Steering Committee would like to thank all those that have been involved with this exciting initiative throughout 2004. The program has gone from strength to strength and it has now built considerable momentum, both with formal partners and interested parties.



Year of the Built Environment 2004
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The New Year will see some significant progress as projects advance further through the initial planning stages towards construction. We are all looking forward to the prospect of seeing these projects complete construction and open for public demonstration to promote the principles of sustainable housing.

Latest news

There have been some significant recent developments in the Sustainable Home program. Many councils are now moving into the process of selecting architects while others are canvassing possible sites for their individual project homes.

The following is an update of progress of some selected projects since the previous newsletter.

Thuringowa City Council –

The site at 1320 Ross River Road is being subdivided and council is waiting for completion of a new stormwater main. A national developer is establishing in the region by undertaking a substantial residential redevelopment in Thuringowa and has offered to be a partner with the Council in the demonstration project. The Council has narrowed the scope to 8 traditional residential lots and the backing of the new partner might allow the whole project to roll as one stage.

Emerald Shire Council –

The site at Andrews Road has been allocated and subdivision works should be completed early in the New Year. The council has short-listed to five preferred architects out of 15 submissions received from around Queensland. Interviews were held in Emerald on the 21st December 2004 to select an Architect. The successful firm will be appointed prior to Christmas.

Murgon Shire Council –

Murgon Shire Council only recently committed formally to join the program and have selected a site at Goodchild Drive Murgon. The Council quickly progressed their project with a call for expressions of interest for architectural consultancy. The call is due to close on the 24th December 2004.



Toowoomba City Council –

The council has advanced their project further with a call for expressions of interest for architectural consultancy which is due to close on 11th January 2005.

Hervey Bay City Council –

The Council has now formally allocated a site at Honiton Street Torquay. An expression of interest for the architectural consultancy has been called and closes on the 24th December 2004.



Brisbane Launch

The Sustainable Home Brisbane was launched to the media at King George Square on the 10th of November by the Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman and there was considerable media and public interest. Also providing an address for the opening was Cr Helen Abrahams (Chair of BCC Sustainability Committee), Wayne Petrie (Chairman YBE Program) and Jim McKnoulty (President AGDF)



Sustainable Home Brisbane – Official Launch

The launch was followed by a public forum and consultation phase that culminated with a design workshop on the 17th November to assist in determining a design brief for the house. The Architect commissioned for the project is Bligh Voller Nield.

The team working on the design for the Sustainable Home Brisbane is now well positioned to develop the draft brief and specification into concept design and this will be developed over the next 4 to 6 weeks. The Brisbane project team also undertook a letter drop to 240 local residents living around the site to advise them of the project.

The team hosted a stand at the Brisbane City Council's Sustainability Fair on 13 November at Seventeen Mile Rocks, which is located adjacent to the site for the Sustainable Home Brisbane.

Communication Support tools

Exciting news for all Council participants is the near completion by the EPA and their team of the Communication Guideline and supporting tools. These will be distributed to participating Councils early in 2005. They are intended to assist Councils with their media responses and awareness raising events, as well as provide a coordinated message

that the Steering Committee would like to communicate about the program. A Communication Guideline has been produced, as well as the following communication tools:

- Sustainable Home Program Posters(two sheets)
- A Sustainable Home brochure
- A Sustainable Home media release shell
- A Sustainable Home standard letter head

Construction Support tools

The construction support tools are continuing to be improved to meet the needs of the Councils as they put them to use.

More support tools are being created as the program progresses. A generic Design Brief document has been created and will be available for use soon.

Support Tools Feedback

We encourage feedback on the usefulness of the communication and construction support tools and how they may be improved. Suggestions of what other tools that may assist in the delivery of your project are also welcomed by the team.

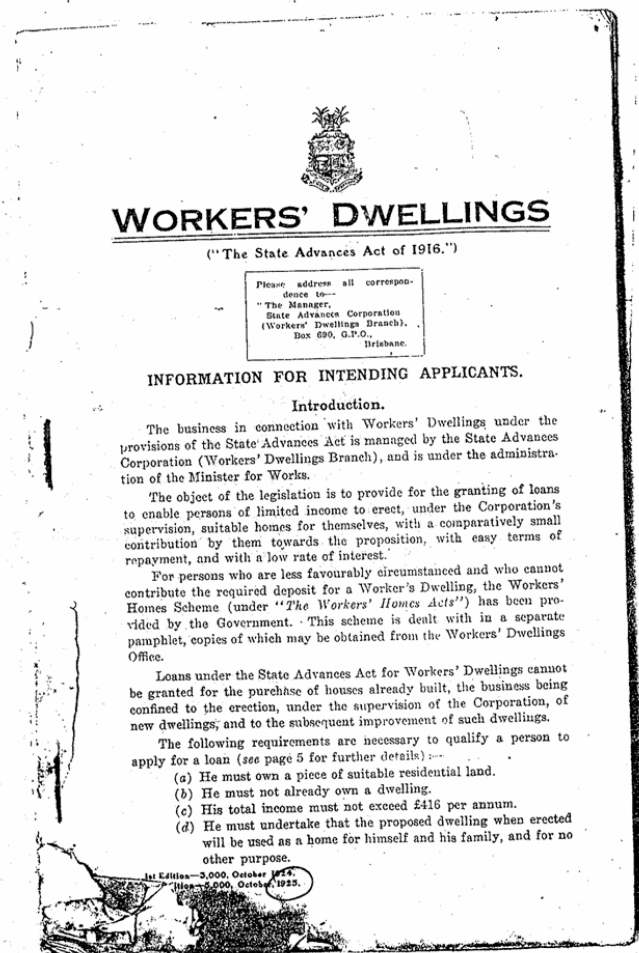
Towards Sustainable Housing Discussion Paper – Public Release

On 8th December Desley Boyle, Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women, publicly released a Discussion Paper titled "Towards Sustainable Housing in Queensland". The Discussion Paper presents the State's Government's preferred options to implement sustainable housing measures pending stakeholder feedback. Copies of the Discussion Paper and its supplementary Regulatory Impact Statement can be found at: www.lgp.qld.gov.au/housing

Sustainability—"it's not a new concept"

We have defined sustainable housing as 'designing, planning and building dwellings to make them more socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.' Mackay City Council brought our attention to the *State Advances Act* of 1916 which shows that the concept of sustainable housing is

hardly new for the 21st century. The Act highlighted many issues that improved sustainable housing and liveability back in the early part of the 20th century!



Unfortunately, not all these recommendations have followed through into the current era, but there were recommendations that are still relevant today.

The Act stated it was *“the desire of the corporation to assist applicants by providing a maximum of comfort and convenience in their homes consistent with their financial circumstances,”* which certainly complies with the triple bottom line message promoted via the Sustainable Homes program.

Outlined below are some of the suggestions quoted from the State Advances Act that are closely aligned with today’s design criteria for sustainable homes:

- *“When about to set out the plan of your home, carefully consider the site in its relation to the dwelling proposed to be erected”;*
- *“If possible place the sleeping verandah on the eastern side of the building and thus gain the benefit of the morning sun”;*

- *“Avoid a common practice of wrongly planning the position of the bathroom and thus blocking the cool evening breeze from your sleeping verandah”;*
- *“Plan the kitchen away from the western side of the building if at all possible”;*
- *“Arrange the position of the front and back steps (back steps, particularly) so as to ensure the least possible number of steps”;*
- *“Consider the position for placing the buildings on the site in relation to the adjoining buildings, and try to avoid interfering with the privacy of the rooms and verandahs which would occur through badly placed windows, nearness of buildings to fences, insufficient height of stumps”;*
- *“Consider the proposed furnishings and their size when planning the dimensions of the rooms”.*

Photos of your site

We would love some photos of your site or project team to put on our web page or in upcoming newsletters. If you would like to share any images please email contributions to ross.merhten@projectservices.qld.gov.au

Useful web links

Don't forget to check the following links for further information on sustainable housing:

- www.ybe2004.qld.gov.au
- www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au
- www.yourhome.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 Program Team depends on your feedback, comments and suggestions. We also welcome contributions to this newsletter. Contact any member of the team below.

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