



**sustainable
HOME**



Sustainable Home Program

Newsletter 3

October 2004

Vision

To 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 responsible.

Latest news

Since the last newsletter, the State Steering Committee agreed to change the program from “Sustainable House Demonstration Program” to “Sustainable Home” Program.

We have had an influx of interest and commitment from local councils and consortiums to the Program. We are pleased to announce that from the end of September, 18 councils had formally committed to the Program and a further 19 councils are undertaking further feasibility. The proposals for many of the projects are now well advanced with various councils working through the delivery of their display home.

Construction support tools

Ross Mehrten from the Program team has been busy creating a series of support tools to assist with the delivery of the local projects. These tools include: -

- *A responsibility matrix* that outlines the roles of individual stakeholders;
- *A market research questionnaire* to gather social, economic and environmental data to assist in the formulation of a site and region specific brief;
- *A financial feasibility* to assist in the calculation of the cost of each project. This has been formatted to calculate separately for comparative purposes, the market expectation cost and the subsidised costs for design, construction, statutory fees etc;
- *An Expression of Interest (EoI)* document to enable the sourcing of suitable design consultants (architects, building designers etc).

Other tools soon to be issued include a *brief template* and a *project program template*. More support tools will be created as the Program progresses.

You are encouraged to provide feedback on the usefulness of the support tools and how they may be improved. Suggestions of what other tools may assist in the delivery of your project are also welcomed.

The tools in use

Emerald Shire Council and Hervey Bay City Council have worked with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) to seek interest for a suitable architectural consultant for their projects. The RAIA Queensland Chapter circulated an email to its members utilising the Eol tool. So far each council has received a strong response from architectural consultants.

Thank you and welcome to the team

Thanks to the **Environmental Protection Agency** who has recently appointed expert Communication Consultant, **Kristen Devitt** and her assisting team of Genevieve Atkinson and Mike Foster. They are currently preparing the communication guideline and tools that will assist councils in promoting awareness of sustainable housing. Kristen and her team are a welcome addition and will provide a thorough plan of the program's communication requirements given their collective experiences across industry and government, not to mention a keen interest in sustainable housing.

These communication tools will guide councils as to what messages to convey and via what mediums, to best promote the benefits of sustainable housing to a range of target audiences. The communication tools available will include, but are not limited to, draft fact sheets, media releases, web text, brochures etc.

Welcome to a new member of the team, **Alex Ackfun** in the role of Program Advisor. Alex is originally from the Department of Housing. A big thank you to **Cathy Keys** for her contribution to the Program.

Individual Project Status Update

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

Toowoomba City Council – The Council has endorsed their project which is known as the “Toowoomba Sustainable Home Project”. The project comprises two significant parts. The first involves the construction of a Sustainable Home on a site in front of the Council Nursery. This site provides significant promotion opportunity as it is exposed to more than 15,000 ratepayers that visit the nursery each year. The second component involves the development of approximately one hectare at the rear of the nursery into a nine lot estate. This estate will incorporate sustainability principles and will be developed in partnership with local developers and builders.

Emerald Shire Council – a site has been allocated and subdivision works are intended to be completed by Christmas. A project program has been formulated and formally signed-off by the Mayor. Following a call through the RAIA seeking expressions of interest for a suitable design consultant, about 20 architects lodged their interest and the next stage is to narrow the field of candidates.

Hervey Bay City Council – has a site nominated for their project. Like Emerald, around 20 architects have expressed interest in providing design services following a call by the RAIA.

Brisbane Project – after following the RAIA “Qualification Based Selection” guidelines, Bligh Voller Nield were selected as the project architects. With the support of council, there will be an initial press release involving the council, the YBE Committee and the Australian Green Development Forum (AGDF) in the week ending 13 November. On Saturday 13 November, there will also be a council sponsored Sustainability Fair at Western Regional Park where the Brisbane Sustainable Home will be represented. On Wednesday, 17 November there will be a half-day Industry Design Review Forum at City Hall hosted by the Brisbane City Council and the AGDF with over 50 housing and development industry experts participating.

House construction is scheduled to start in late January and be completed by mid-2005.

Apology

The team would also like to send apologies to Fitzroy Shire Council. The Program has been gaining so much momentum that a typographic error occurred in our last newsletter due to the amount of information we are processing. The article was supposed to represent Gladstone City Council.

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

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 on the following contact details.

Email wayne.petrie@projectservices.qld.gov.au or phone 3224 4662
Email ross.mehrten@projectservices.qld.gov.au or phone 3227 7759
Email alexander.ackfun@housing.qld.gov.au or phone 32276869