

Hansard Wednesday, 13 February 2008

Speech by Steve Wettenhall  
MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

### **SUSTAINABLE HOMES**

Mr WETTENHALL (Barron River—ALP) (11.53 am): On 4 February 2008 I had the pleasure of opening Queensland's latest smart and sustainable home in my electorate at Lot 104 Davidson Close, Redlynch. The Queensland government's Smart and Sustainable Homes program involves collaboration between state and local governments and private industry to design and build a series of sustainable homes for public displays throughout the state. To be a smart and sustainable home, the designs must meet the Department of Public Works design objectives using the triple bottom line concept, which aims to achieve a balance between environmental, economic and social sustainability.

The Redlynch home is designed to encourage energy efficiency, to reduce maintenance and running costs, and to be comfortable and accessible for all types of families at every stage of their lives. The home is designed to catch the prevailing breezes and shield the house from sun and is comfortable on the hottest day without the need for air conditioning.

Like 36 other homes that have been built as part of the program, the Redlynch home will be on display every weekend until July 2008, enabling people to see firsthand what a sustainable home looks like so that they can seek out variations to standard building plans that are on the market today. Interest in the program has been high.

Over 27,000 people have visited display homes in south-east Queensland, the Capricorn Coast and Townsville. Well over one million people are visiting the web site, [www.sustainable-homes.org.au](http://www.sustainable-homes.org.au), and a range of printed information has been developed.

Other Queensland government policies and programs support sustainable housing. For example, the Queensland Development Code requires all new homes to have energy- and water-efficient features, and the Environmental Protection Agency is funding the Housing Industry Association to develop and promote the GreenSmart training program for builders and consumers. It is also working with the Real Estate Institute of Queensland to develop a training program for real estate agents to market sustainable homes as well as collaborating with the Urban Development Institute of Australia to develop the EnviroDevelopment rating tool for residential development.

Sustainable homes are the way of the future and they can be built today, as the developer of the Redlynch home, Mr Rob Wallace of Raw Fusion Pty Ltd, and his builder, Macpark Pty Ltd, have demonstrated.