

18 July 2006

THE HON DESLEY BOYLE TO LAUNCH SUSTAINABLE HOME BRISBANE

The Hon Desley Boyle, Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women, will officially open the Sustainable Home Brisbane at 4 Gordon Circuit, Seventeen Mile Rocks (Verandah, cnr Fort Road and Fremont Street) on Wednesday 19 July 2006.

Sustainable Home Brisbane is the third to be opened in a series of 20 sustainable demonstration homes being built across Queensland in a national first involving the State Government, local councils, and industry across Queensland. The Sustainable Homes program will demonstrate the principles of Smart Housing, housing which is socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable.

Partners in the Sustainable Homes initiative include the Department of Housing; Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Public Works; Australian Green Development Forum (AGDF); Bendigo Bank; Planning Institute of Australia; Royal Australian Institute of Architects; Queensland Master Builders Association; Housing Industry Association; and the Urban Development Institute of Australia, Queensland branch.

Designed by architects Bligh Voller Nield and built by Natural Lifestyle Homes, the home is a collaborative effort by a number of AGDF members.

AGDF President Jim McKnoulty, who is thrilled with this sustainability initiative, said 'AGDF is proud to be associated with this project and believes it clearly demonstrates sustainable homes are more liveable, create healthier environments, and help us save water and energy'.

'Given the projected population growth for South East Queensland over the next decade, it is more important than ever that as a community we embrace smarter and more sustainable housing design,' Mr McKnoulty said.

'The aim of the Sustainable Home Brisbane is to give homebuyers and renovators a greater understanding of what goes into making a house sustainable and how that can benefit their own families and local communities.'

Mr McKnoulty also said he hopes the demonstration home will encourage Brisbane residents to incorporate sustainable design features into houses they are planning to build, as well as their existing homes.

'Sustainable homes have to become a part of our future. The more people we educate and inform, through projects like this, the easier it will be for us to move to a more sustainable lifestyle', Mr McKnoulty said.

Sustainable Home Brisbane is located within the new Verandah residential estate above Rocks Riverside Park at Seventeen Mile Rocks. The entire estate incorporates sustainable development practices such as minimal clearing of trees and grassed swales incorporating bioretention instead of roadside gutters.

Sustainable Homes Program Director, Mr Wayne Petrie, said Sustainable Home Brisbane will provide the perfect opportunity to showcase sustainable building design.

'Sustainable Home Brisbane will demonstrate the considerable lifestyle and economic benefits that can be achieved through smart, climate-sensitive housing design,' he said.

'Sustainable homes incorporate simple, common sense design features that are attainable for everyone.'

‘Sustainable Home Brisbane will provide local residents with ideas of the cost-effective, climate sensitive design features that can be included in their own homes.’

The home’s design has been accredited by the Sustainable Homes program and maximises cross-ventilation with the use of high ceilings and thermal insulation.

Other sustainable design features include:

- Materials that combine durability and cost efficiency
- Cladding made from 100% recycled material
- Living spaces located on the northern side of the house to make the most of the site’s northern orientation
- Shading, screening, and overhangs to assist in keeping the home cool in summer
- Solar power for hot water
- Photovoltaic array powers lights and fans
- Rainwater tanks
- Principles of safety, security, and accessibility

For the next six months, Sustainable Home Brisbane is open to the public on Wednesdays 2pm – 5pm, and weekends 1pm – 5pm.

AGDF is the peak industry body for sustainable development. It is endorsed by industry, government and environmental bodies, and is aligned to community sectors that have an interest in fostering sustainable development.

Major sponsors of the project include Greening Australia, Natural Lifestyle Homes, Style Plantation, and Tradelink Environmental Solutions.

Consultant Partners include Bligh Tanner, Bligh Voller Nield, Lincolne Scott, Centre for Subtropical Design – QUT, John Clarke & Associates, Maunsell Australia, PMM Group, and Yurrah Pty Ltd.

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NOTE TO MEDIA

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