

# MEDIA RELEASE



## Gladstone development claims national green credentials

Gladstone's development scene continues growing and the centre can now boast one of the most environmentally sustainable projects in Australia.

New masterplanned development HillClose has today (**10<sup>th</sup> November**) been awarded EnviroDevelopment certification for outstanding environmental outcomes in its treatment of waste, energy, materials, water and the community.

The recognition is a milestone for Gladstone development and is hoped to pave the way for more developments to pursue cutting edge environmental practices in their construction and design.

HillClose is being delivered by the Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) and, with 297 homesites, is anticipated to assist in meeting the housing pressures that are expected to continue rising from the resource sector.

EnviroDevelopment National Manager Kirsty Chessher congratulated the HillClose team for its commitment to delivering a sophisticated masterplan which considers all elements of sustainable design.

"What HillClose has achieved is a truly unique solution for Gladstone's local conditions. There has been a lot of effort dedicated to ensuring all aspects of this development, in its construction, and its lifetime, will benefit Gladstone – its economy, its people and, importantly, its natural environment," Ms Chessher said.

"From placing priority on the use of local businesses, to the reuse and recycling of excess construction materials and flowing right through to the provision of individual compost bins for each house, this team has taken every opportunity to raise the bar of sustainable development in central Queensland," she said.

Sustainable features at HillClose include:

- The Landscape Masterplan utilises existing vegetation and native species of local provenance to reduce the reliance on irrigation and the use of pesticides, herbicides and artificial fertilisers.
- The development has been masterplanned to respond appropriately to local conditions including natural drainage systems.
- Strong focus on the principles of integrated water cycle management through the provision of drainage basins, swales and bio-retention systems constructed using permeable materials.
- Significant reduction in site waste through the reuse or recycling of excess materials.
- Design Guidelines outline significant measures to ensure good passive solar design and reduce reliance on air-conditioning.
- Public open spaces will utilise captured stormwater for irrigation
- The masterplan encourages walking and cycling by providing a safe, attractive and efficient pedestrian and cycle network.

EnviroDevelopment is a national certification and branding tool designed to recognise, reward and encourage top performance in sustainable development. Certified projects earn the right to display a series of icons relevant to their areas of achievement, thereby empowering consumers to identify and select better performing projects.

*Ends. For more information, please contact Kirsty Chessher on 0409 274 360.*