

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **South Australian projects lead the world in sustainable living**

A world first certification tool launched today (6 May 2009) places South Australia at the helm of environmental development by recognising projects for their sustainable planning and design.

The certification system, EnviroDevelopment, was created by environmental and development industry experts to provide independent verification that a project meets the highest standards of environmental sustainability in the criteria of ecosystems, waste, energy, materials, water and community.

Three projects today received the state's first EnviroDevelopment certifications from Minister for Environment and Conservation, Jay Weatherill.

Land Management Corporation's (LMC) Lochiel Park estate achieved EnviroDevelopment certification in all six criteria, while the Mawson Lakes project, developed by Delfin Lend Lease Communities and LMC was certified in five criteria, ecosystems, waste, energy, water and community.

The Blackwood Park phase 2 project, developed by Adelaide Development Company, sought and gained certification in ecosystems, waste, energy and community.

Ian Marker, President of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) in SA, says the EnviroDevelopment system will provide clear guidelines and standards for sustainable developments in the industry, and help consumers identify such properties in the marketplace.

"This system will help to increase awareness of the value of sustainable living, educate the public about what constitutes an environmentally outstanding development, and provide unprecedented motivation for both homebuyers and developers to invest in environmental sustainability," said Mr Marker.

"The three certified projects are great examples of how environmental sustainability can be achieved, and we hope to see many more projects in SA promoting sustainable living."

The UDIA's long term vision for EnviroDevelopment includes negotiation with councils to provide incentives for certified projects, including rebates and fast-tracking development applications.

"The strength of the EnviroDevelopment model is its focus on partnerships with government and industry to achieve the common goal of a more sustainable way of life. Local councils are in a particularly strong position to encourage a greater rate of sustainable development in their community by introducing incentives for EnviroDevelopment certified projects," Mr Marker said.

Queensland has led the development of the environmental ratings tool, following more than two years of pilot projects in the state. Other states and territories are also introducing the model to ensure that the high standards for environmental sustainability of urban development projects are applied across all of Australia.

#### Media:

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