



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5 November, 2009

New EnviroDevelopment standards raise the bar for sustainability

An outstanding sustainable development project has been unveiled today (5 November 2009) as the first to be certified under the new Queensland EnviroDevelopment Standards, version 2.0.

The Fitzgibbon Chase development has been awarded full EnviroDevelopment certification, recognising outstanding achievement across the six key areas of sustainability - ecosystems, waste, energy, materials, water and community.

An initiative of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA), EnviroDevelopment is a scientifically based branding and certification system rewarding exemplary sustainable development projects with environmental compliance marketing symbols relevant to their achievements.

The announcement of Fitzgibbon Chase's success coincides with the release of version 2.0 EnviroDevelopment technical standards by the UDIA, which significantly raise the standards required to achieve EnviroDevelopment certification.

UDIA (Qld) CEO Brian Stewart said the new standards were developed in light of changes to Queensland legislation, community expectations and the certification of nine projects throughout the state.

"The standards review ensures EnviroDevelopment continues to inspire and reward high performing sustainable developments," he said

Version 2.0 significantly raises sustainability benchmarks across the six elements of EnviroDevelopment, and in particular raises energy and water targets. Certified EnviroDevelopments will now reflect a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a 55% reduction in potable water usage over the entire development.

The Fitzgibbon Chase development, the first to be certified under version 2.0, is being undertaken by the Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) and incorporates vast open space, energy efficient house design, advanced waste minimisation and recycling strategies, extensive ecological assessment and flora and fauna management strategies to gain certification and ensure future residents will have a genuine environmentally friendly environment.

Once completed, the entire Fitzgibbon Chase development will contain up to 1,700 homes in a range of styles to suit all household types, as well as parks and a 40 ha piece of bushland.

ULDA CEO Paul Eagles said the certification means that people who are looking to buy in Fitzgibbon Chase can be assured that the home they are purchasing meets a significant range of environment standards.

"Fitzgibbon Chase is the first development ever to be certified under version 2.0 of the EnviroDevelopment program which requires that even more stringent standards be met.

“It is a testament to the work the ULDA has been undertaking with our builder partners that we have been able to achieve this while at the same time ensuring that we meet our housing affordability requirements,” Mr Eagles said.

Queensland has led the development of the environmental ratings tool, and EnviroDevelopment has been implemented in Western Australia and South Australia this year, with other states and territories also introducing the model to ensure that the high standards for environmental sustainability of urban development projects are applied across all of Australia.

Ends.

For more information please contact Michelle O'Brien at UDIA (Qld) on (07) 3233 2725.