

Highfields developer designs house in tune with environment

More than 150 guests turned out under a marquee to hear Highfields identity Mac Stirling announce a new home package that promises sustainability in reducing human impact on the environment.

The official opening of the POWER (Protect Our World Environment Resources) display home on the corner of Rogers Drive and Manooka Crescent, drew guests from the building trades, architects, product suppliers and decorators, real estate agents, local government, including guest Mayor of Crow's Nest Shire Geoff Patch and State politician Kerry Shine.

Managing Director of developers Lauder Pty Ltd Mac Stirling said his company was serious about developing sustainable housing.

"With water supplies at a critical point and climate change a grim reality, we must make sustainable house design accessible and affordable for the average home buyer."

"Our approach has been to take a proven, high quality house design and provide an environmentally sustainable design overlay which not only makes the home more responsive to the environment and reduces water use and greenhouse gas emissions but is also safe for residents."

The home harvests rain in a 25,000 litre below-ground tank, has three and four-star water efficient fixtures inside and a tank for recycled water of about

2500 litre capacity which tops up from the council water reticulation system, at three litres a minute. The council system is envisaged to include potable and recycled water.

Potable water demand which would be made up through all the systems attached to the home would be around 19,000 litres a year which designers say is a reduction of about 95 per cent if compared to the present water supply to a home of the same needs coming only from the current potable water system.

Designers took into account water demands for the garden area of about 400 square metres as well as interior appliances, the bath, basins, toilet, clothes washer, dishwasher and

kitchen sink. The garden would use about 860 litres a day, given it could also depend on rainfall of average 15mm per week.

Water heating, heating and cooling of the interior, air quality, and the use of recycled building materials, low long-term maintenance costs, power and lighting efficiency, making the most of the outdoor lifestyle, and how the house sits in relation to the street, all were factors making it a highly efficient, secure and comfortable home.

Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, and Member for Toowoomba North, Kerry Shine who officially opened the home, said the drought had exposed the vulnerability of water supplies and sustainability issues were

now a critical concern.

"The Crow's Nest Shire Council's new recycled waste water mains supply system actively works to conserve water for the future and the POWER homes at Highfields Village effectively bring sustainable home design into the mainstream.

"I applaud Crow's Nest Shire Council and Lauder Pty Ltd because their micro management strategy will deliver real results for the community and complement the State Government's macro management of long term water supplies," Mr Shine said.

This first Highfields POWER home, designed by PDT Architects, will be marketed by John Tyler of Highfields Country and Toowoomba Real Estate.



Lauder Pty Ltd managing director Mac Stirling: Recycled water on tap.

- CLC Photographers - Toowoomba.

