

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“THE ECOVILLAGE AT CURRUMBIN”

Amidst the threat of global environmental crisis, the challenge of this century is how to live and develop sustainably – in harmony with nature, to foster community and a modern quality of life. Landmatters vision is to “*inspire sustainable living and development practice awareness*” by creating a residential community that exemplifies *World’s Best Practice* in Ecologically Sustainable Development.

The Ecovillage at Currumbin is located on a magnificent 110ha site on the Gold Coast close to beaches and urban facilities. The project comprises a diversity of landscapes and living opportunities and provides for 144 high benchmark sustainable homes on lot sizes ranging from 450 – 6000 sqm. Community facilities, a Village Centre with a co-op community store, café/bakery, Interpretive Centre, work/shop spaces, health practitioner rooms, community primary/pre school, plant nursery, recycling centre and comprehensive recreational facilities including Village Hall, Village Green, areal part of this innovative development.

The Ecovillage at Currumbin achieves:

- Self-sufficiency in energy usage and *complete autonomy* in water and waste water recycling
- 80% of site as open-space, 50% environmental reserve, and the same yield as standard development
- Food and material self-sufficiency through edible landscaping and streetscaping, household farming and other productive strategies
- Preservation of natural landforms and rehabilitation of the degraded site’s environmental integrity
- Extensive wildlife corridors, negligible vegetation loss and extensive native plant regeneration
- Cutting edge integrated water quality measures to exemplify Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Cultural Heritage honoured and integrated
- Mix of socially-oriented innovative ecological, energy efficient housing catering for diverse needs
- On-site work strategies and facilities for village and local community
- Waste recycling strategies including an innovative RRR recycling centre
- Comprehensive traffic saving strategies to reduce vehicle impacts on and off site
- Well researched administrative framework providing social equity & enduring community integrity
- Initial and ongoing social planning to foster cohesion and promote sustainable community
- Continuing education of sustainable living and development practices via the Interpretive Centre
- Sustainable economic performance both with the development and the ongoing community

The innovative project design has followed a collaborative approach with an extensive and unprecedented Community Consultation program yielding strong design input from indigenous groups, residents, stakeholder groups, referral agencies and the general public.

Currently, the final stages of construction approach completion and the project has received an extraordinary market response with over 85% pre-commitment. The Interpretive Centre, officially opened by Qld Premier the Hon Peter Beattie in December 2005, publicly showcases the project’s innovative subdivision design. The Ecovillage is a Queensland Govt *Energywise and Waterwise* Demonstration Project and involves significant partnership with community universities, industry and various tiers of government. The Ecovillage has won 21 Awards from industry and Government, including the highest honour in the world, the FIABCI (International Real Estate Federation) *Prix d’Excellence* for Environmental Development.

The product of 11 years of worldwide research and design, Landmatters’ *The Ecovillage at Currumbin* is established a **benchmark standard for sustainable residential development**, with environmental, social and economic sustainability as its driving principles.