

Media Release

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QUT Scholar to Study Green Building Springfield Lakes' GreenSmart Village



Springfield Lakes has been selected for a 12-month study into green housing practices, designed to teach the Australian building industry the best ways to design and construct environmentally friendly homes.

The study will focus on Springfield Lakes' GreenSmart Village, which features display homes designed under the Housing Industry Association (HIA) GreenSmart Program – a set of building principles developed to maximise energy efficiency in mainstream housing.

Director of Sustainable Development Strategies Pty Ltd David Luxmoore will conduct the research, which has been made possible by a 12-month scholarship awarded through QUT on behalf of the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation (CRC CI) and supported by Delfin Lend Lease.

Chief Executive Officer of CRC CI Dr Keith Hampson said the scholarship supported CRC CI's vision for sustainable, innovative and collaborative industry development.

"David Luxmoore's project is analysing ways of changing the mainstream culture of the property and construction industry so that more builders will take on the concept of sustainable building," Dr Hampson said.

"The CRC CI is undertaking a number of projects in sustainable building and asset management, and recognises there are enormous potential commercial opportunities for those willing to accept this new paradigm.

"To be green doesn't necessarily mean greater costs. Mr Luxmoore's CRC CI scholarship will analyse the cost differential for sustainable building, the payback period and how designs and construction techniques can be fine-tuned for greater energy, planning and construction efficiency. It is an important research area which will provide invaluable feedback to the industry."

Mr Luxmoore will evaluate and document the GreenSmart Program, creating an easy-to-use, central point of reference for builders or prospective home buyers wanting to research the specifics of GreenSmart housing.

"Varying amounts of information on GreenSmart homes have been available in the past. But some people want very specific information, for example, on water or energy efficiency. But they didn't know where to look to for it," Mr Luxmoore said.

"By documenting the GreenSmart building process at Springfield Lakes, this information will for the first time become readily accessible to everyone, and therefore raise the level of expertise and environmental awareness in the building industry."

Mr Luxmoore will work closely with GreenSmart-accredited builder Civic Steel Homes during the construction of environmentally innovative homes in Springfield Lakes' latest land release The Summit.

Springfield Lakes project manager Marc Wilkinson said Delfin Lend Lease was committed to environmentally sustainable development and proud to support the GreenSmart Program.

“Sustainable housing is of great importance to Delfin Lend Lease, as is our commitment to education, so we’re excited at being able to support David Luxmoore in his research of The Summit GreenSmart Village at Springfield Lakes.

“Delfin Lend Lease is also developing 19 other master-planned communities across Australia, with 250-plus builders working on-site, so this study will have real impact on the construction industry throughout the country.

“The Summit GreenSmart Village, will feature three homes built by Civic Steel Homes as part of the HIA GreenSmart Program. In addition to raising awareness in green building practices, proceeds from the sale of the homes go to the Wesley Mission.

“Through our support of this scholarship Delfin Lend Lease can contribute to the development of environmentally sound building practices.

This is the first time QUT has offered the scholarship which is worth \$30,000 over 12 months and will lead to a Masters by Research qualification. The project will be supervised by Professor Mahen Mahendran of QUT’s School of Civil Engineering.

The CRC CI is a collaboration involving 19 industry, government and research partners and has been made possible through a \$14 million Federal Government grant through the CRC Program complementing \$50 million in other industry, research and other government funding.

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For more information contact:

Tarnya Keating
Delfin Lend Lease
(07) 3280 2212

Kate Finlayson
Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation (CRC CI)
(07) 3864 9295