



JOSH'S HOUSE ANNOUNCED 10 STAR ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSING PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY

After 20 years renovating other people's houses and gardens to demonstrate his sustainable design ideas, Josh Byrne (Environmental Scientist & presenter on ABC TV's Gardening Australia) is undertaking his most ambitious housing project yet - the design and construction of two 10 star energy efficient family homes in the Fremantle suburb of Hilton, Western Australia.

Tired of hearing that sustainable construction has to cost more, Josh and his colleagues want to prove that resource efficient homes can be built at comparable cost and timeframes to regular houses. The three bedroom – two bathroom homes will be thermally comfortable year round, without the need for air conditioning or additional heating. They will generate more electricity than they use, and will harvest and recycle water. In addition to private garden areas, a common productive garden will supply both houses with fresh food.

What sets this project apart from many others is that the building designs have achieved a 10 Star energy efficiency rating*, whilst intentionally using conventional building materials and construction methods so they can easily be replicated by industry and the wider community.

"The project also demonstrates a more sensitive approach to residential subdivision that has considered maximising effective garden area around the homes to allow for natural shading, children's play spaces and local food production – important health and lifestyle benefits that are rapidly disappearing from our suburbs", says Josh Byrne.

In addition to the 10 Star NatHERS rating achieved for both homes, the development has undergone further scrutiny to assess their environmental impact, sustainability & liveability credentials. Josh engaged two local emerging companies to assist with this process – eTool, who undertook a life cycle and carbon accounting assessment and ARCAActive who assessed the project across a broad range of sustainability criteria including energy, water, materials and biodiversity, amongst others.



The homes are expected to use less than 10% of the energy of a typical Australian new house, saving the occupants an average of \$2,000 per year in energy costs. The house will emit less than 10% of the greenhouse gas emissions normally created by Australian dwellings and use around 40% of the scheme water of a typical Perth home, whilst still supporting a diverse and productive garden.

“This project is all about providing an inspiring and practical example of how to create beautiful and resource efficient homes that are accessible to the broader community” says Josh. “Key to the project’s success will be the industry partnerships that we will form and foster throughout the process to help share ideas and promote the outcomes.” There has already been significant interest from industry with a number of leading suppliers and industry association partnering with Josh and his team. “We’re thrilled to have Highbury Homes as our builder and to be working with Griff Morris from Solar Dwellings on the design – from concept to completion. The Water Corporation and the City of Fremantle have also got right behind us, as have a number of other organisations”.

People can follow Josh’s journey via a series of short online films which can be viewed on the project website. The building and landscape plans can be downloaded for free and factsheets on various aspects of the build will made available during the construction period. There will also be a research component to the project to assess the thermal performance, as well as energy and water efficiency of the homes and landscaping once they are completed and operational.

Sign up for the free Josh’s House eNewsletter by visiting: www.joshshouse.com.au Each issue will be full of recent project developments, links to Josh’s latest film episodes, helpful tips for leading a more sustainable lifestyle, and much more.

Construction is due to begin later this month and is scheduled for completion by May 2013.

Attachment: Josh Byrne’s Biography



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