



# Easy eco-living at The Ponds

A new display home at The Ponds is raising the benchmark in sustainable living, KYLIE DULHUNTY reports.

IMAGINE relaxing on a deck made from milk bottles and living in a house made from eco-friendly bricks.

The year is not 2050, the time is now – and the launch of the first Eco-Living Display Home is set to change how new homes are built.

Launched at the end of June, the Benchmark features these sustainable features and more.

It is the first of three Eco-Living Display Homes that Landcom and Clarendon Homes will be releasing at The Ponds this year.

But far from looking like a child's kindergarten project, the deck at the Benchmark looks just like any other timber entertaining zone.

It is made from ModWood, a product made from 90 per cent recycled plastic milk bottles and pine waste.

Other sustainable products at the home include Austral Everyday Life bricks, which are 25 per cent lighter and produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions during manufacture.

The Benchmark has a six-star thermal performance rating, a

60 per cent energy score and 70 per cent water score on BASIX, the Building Sustainability Index. The current requirement for NSW homes is a five-star thermal performance rating and a 40 per cent BASIX score for energy and water.

Landcom sustainability and policy director Stephen Driscoll said the aim was to educate the public and project home industry about ways to build more sustainable homes.

“If people don't know about it they don't consume it,” he said.

“Putting alternative things on display shows other builders what can be done because they can see it.

“People, customers, can touch it, feel it, and when that happens they ask for it.”

The Benchmark achieved its six-star rating with north-facing living rooms, good cross-flow ventilation, increased insulation, glazing that reduces heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter, and other features. Other inclusions are a sheltered outdoor clothes drying area, a rainwater tank, waste sorter bins and timber architraves,

skirting boards, door frames and staircase.

The price of the Benchmark starts at \$235,880, with designer specification. The six-star thermal performance package costs an extra \$2559 and the full sustainability package, including the deck, is \$32,000.

Clarendon Homes design sustainability specialist Shaila Divakarla said the company was reviewing its most popular house packages and how it could take the six-star package to the national market.

“Clarendon Homes' entire supply chain is now also beginning to look at ways of developing and introducing more sustainable products into the housing industry as a direct result of working with us and Landcom ... this project is already transforming the industry,” she said.

The Benchmark is open daily for inspection from 10am to 5pm. For more information visit [ecolivingdisplayhomes.com.au](http://ecolivingdisplayhomes.com.au)



**The Benchmark is the first of three sustainable homes Landcom and Clarendon Homes will release this year. Inset: Clarendon Homes' design sustainability specialist Shaila Divakarla and Landcom sustainability and policy director Stephen Driscoll.**

