



Steel crowns energy-smart award winner



Residential development Laurimar has won the Sustainable Energy Authority of Victoria's Energy Smart Housing Award. Pictured is Matt Powers from Laurimar developer Drapac Property.



A rural residential development in the Plenty Valley near Melbourne has raised the bar for environment-friendly development standards.

Laurimar has won the Sustainable Energy Authority of Victoria's Energy Smart Housing Award.

The developers require a minimum five star energy rating for all new homes and the town is notable for its orientation of homes to maximise energy efficiency.

Careful selection of building materials is another key feature of the estate's homes, including a predominance of roofing made from COLORBOND® steel developed by BlueScope Steel.

Laurimar developer Drapac Property's vision is for a town of nearly 2400 homes which incorporates a thoroughly modern approach to sustainable development.

Matt Power of Drapac Property said the award was welcome recogni-

tion of the differences between Laurimar and other developments.

"As well as setting a minimum energy efficiency standard for all new homes, we have formed partnerships with energy efficient builders, designers and suppliers to help implement this standard," Mr Power said.

"Our partnerships are designed to encourage good design from both an environmental and an aesthetic perspective rather than the big boxes that are often built closer to town."

Drapac Property's covenants include a stipulation that all roofing must be made from either slate, genuine terra cotta or COLORBOND® steel.

"Because steel is so much more economical than terracotta or slate, about 95 percent of the

homes built to date have COLORBOND® steel roofing," Mr Power said.

Steel's low thermal mass was also significant in terms of energy management.

The Sustainable Energy Authority judges commended Drapac Property for its comprehensive approach to environmental care, including public workshops on house design, landscaping and recycling.

They said Laurimar "goes beyond energy efficiency to incorporate a total showcase of environmentally sustainable development that is set to be a benchmark for new housing development in Australia".

Laurimar has further plans for a five star energy-rated display village.

► IN BRIEF

Project:

Laurimar

ESD Awards:

The 2001 Sustainable Energy Authority of Victoria's Energy Smart Housing award and the HIA Greensmart Development of 2001

Steel solution:

COLORBOND® steel's low thermal mass was significant in terms of energy management

Architect:

Peter Gionfriddo from Drapac Property
Ph: (03) 9663 2544

Builder:

Multiple builders who must meet comprehensive design guidelines as set out by Peter Gionfriddo

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- MR MATT POWERS,
DRAPAC PROPERTY