

Question on Notice

No. 762

Asked on Thursday, 15 April 2010

MR SHINE asked the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR HINCHLIFFE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to a recent forum I attended in Toowoomba held by the government on its recently announced intention to introduce 6 star equivalent energy efficiency standards for houses from 1 May this year—

Will the Minister provide an update on this policy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Toowoomba North for his question and for his interest in the Government's Sustainable Housing measures.

As the Honourable Member is aware, the Toowoomba Energy Efficiency Forum was a resounding success. It was a follow up from the forum I hosted in Cairns on 2 March 2010 and over 70 building industry stakeholders attended to discuss the implementation of the Government's 6-star election commitment.

The Government has committed that Queensland's 6-star rating will recognise and reward uniquely green features of our tropical and subtropical homes. Examples of these features include suspended timber floors, ventilation through large windows, wide doors and hallways, as well as outdoor living areas.

As a result of consultation, both through the forums and more generally, a revised 'Queensland specific' style of credits has been developed. This style will help ensure the designs of our homes suit our unique climate and lifestyle: for example, a 1-star credit will be available for homes with a one kilowatt solar photovoltaic system, to help Queenslanders to do the bright thing. Further, concessions have been applied guaranteeing that high-set 'Queenslander' style homes will not be penalised in warmer parts of the State, as they would be under the national codes developed in Canberra. Finally, Queensland's builders will be able to use an 80 per cent rule for energy efficient lighting, instead of a more complex lighting calculator that will be the only choice for builders in southern States.

The Government is committed to sustainable housing standards, to help meet our Q2 ambitions for a prosperous and well planned Queensland.