

<b>PLANNING AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE</b>	<b>4</b>
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<b>9 JULY 2014</b>	<b>4</b>
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COOL HOMES GUIDE AND WORKSHOPS

Sophie Barrett | 8/24/18-01 | #4406864

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council notes the Cool Homes: smart design for the tropics guide and workshops being held in July 2014.**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The *Cool Homes: smart design for the tropics* guide has been produced by Council to provide support to the building, design and consumer market on the principles of sustainable design for residential homes the tropics.

The guide has been prepared to help consumers work with their architect, designer or builder to incorporate tropical design features into their residential home.

The Cool Homes Guide was launched at the Sustainable Living Expo on 22 June 2014 by Councillor Richie Bates.

Two free workshops on designing and building a cool home will be run in July 2014. A sustainable workshop for the community will be held on 24 July at the Cairns Library from 5.30pm-8.30pm. To address the growing number of homes being designed by builders a workshop on sustainable design for builders will be held on 31 July at the Civic Reception Room at Council from 3.00pm – 5.30pm. The workshops will be facilitated by Council and People Oriented Design.

**BACKGROUND:**

Council produced the *Cairns Style Guide* in 2007. This guide was substantially revised in 2010. The *Cairns Style Guide* was aimed at building types from the individual house to the multi-unit development or commercial building market.

In 2011, the *Sustainable Tropical Building Design: Guidelines for Commercial Buildings* was released by Council to assist in meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Building Design Policy when designing, constructing and renovating Council buildings. This guide was intended as a general reference guide for sustainable design and construction of commercial buildings in the tropics.

**COMMENT:**

The Cool Homes Guide has been prepared to provide a guide on sustainable design for residential homes in the tropics and support consumers, builders and designers on the features of good tropical design. With the rising prices of electricity and the increasing demand on water, this guide provides cost effective ideas to design the home to reduce future running costs and improve comfort.

The guide is divided into 7 main sections:

1. Orientation and shading
2. Ventilation
3. Building Materials and Colours
4. Insulation
5. Outdoor Rooms
6. Energy Savers
7. In the Garden
8. Reach for the Stars

There is a limited print run of the guide (500 copies) with the guide being available electronically on the Council website.

The Cool Homes Guide was launched at the Sustainable Living Expo on 22 June 2014 by Councillor Richie Bates.

Current research shows that around 70% of new homes are designed by builders (BDAQ 2014). To address this large segment of the market it is proposed to deliver a Cool Homes Workshop directly to the housing industry. The HIA are supportive of this initiative and will market the workshop to over 500 members in the region. At this workshop attendees will have the chance to review a standard design and produce a sustainable building design. They will also have the opportunity to provide feedback to Council on the barriers to providing sustainable buildings in the Tropics.

A community workshop is also proposed to provide information on sustainable building design to members of the community interested in building, buying or renovating a home. This interactive workshop will give participants a chance to design a home based on sustainable design principles. It will also feature presentations by local sustainable builders and the Tropical Green Building Network.

Details of the free workshops are:

Cool Homes: Featuring the Least House Necessary

Date: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Time: 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Venue: Cairns City Library

Cool Homes: Housing Industry Sustainable Design Workshop

Date: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014

Time: 3.00pm – 5.30pm

Venue: Civic Reception Room, Cairns Regional Council

Participants can register by emailing [sustainability@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@cairns.qld.gov.au) or contacting 4044 3312.

**OPTIONS:**

The report is for noting.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

Risk Management:

The workshops are targeted at providing information with limited risks identified.

Financial:

The graphic design and printing of the guide was \$8900 (GST inc.). The workshops will be \$1540 (GST inc.) with additional minor costs for venue hire (Council library) and catering.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The Cool Homes Guide and workshops contribute toward:

Corporate Plan

- Goal 3.2 - A quality and well planned build environment that meets basic community needs
- Goal 3.4 - **An environmentally educated and empowered community**
- Goal 3.5 - **Ensure climate change impacts on our community, natural and built environment are minimised**

Climate Change Strategy

- 27. Develop and adopt a Sustainable Design Policy and Sustainable Design Guidelines
- 40. Inform, consult and involve community groups and individuals

Statutory:

Nil

Policy:

The Cool Homes Guide and workshops are consistent with Council's Sustainable Building Design Policy.

Sustainability:

**Resources:** This initiative promotes resource efficiency through reducing the demand on electricity and water through sustainable building design and renewable energy in the housing market.

**Environment:** This initiative has no impact on the local environment.

**Community and Social:** This initiative provides information on sustainable design and is aimed at those building a new home or renovating their existing homes. Using these techniques the community can work with their designer or builder to design a home that will save money on future running costs and be cool and comfortable to live in.

**Governance and economic management:** This initiative provides support for the building and design industries and the community in providing sustainable building design outcomes for residential development. There are significant economic benefits to the community in terms of reduced energy costs and reduction in demand on energy and water for residential housing if the principles in this guide are implemented.

**CONSULTATION:**

Council officers from the Planning Strategies team together with a number of external groups have been consulted in the preparation of the Cool Homes Guide and the development of the workshops.

External groups consulted include: Housing Industry Association, Architects Institute of Australia, Building Designers' Association of Queensland, Tropical Green Building Network.

Feedback from the external Groups was that the Cool Homes Guide would be:

1. A useful resource for new home buyers
2. A useful resource for builders and their sales staff
3. A useful resource for designers and architects

**Website Link**

[Cool Homes Guide](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/buildings)  
<http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/buildings>



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