

Sustainability Living Centre, Friday 11 September 2015

Participants:

	Name	Role	Council
1.	Angie Cousens	Development Engineer	Tweed
2.	Tracey Stinson	Director Community and Natural Resources	Tweed
3.	Debbie Firestone	Program Leader – Sustainability	Tweed
4.	Danny Rose	Manager - Roads and Stormwater	Tweed
5.	Brenden Schwarz	Engineer – Developments	Tweed
6.	Phil Clark	Building Surveyor	Tweed
7.	Brent McAlister	Executive Director – Sustainable Development	Lismore
8.	Doreen Harwood	Team Leader – Environmental Health	Tweed
9.	Jeremy Magee	Eco Essence Homes	
10.	Wayne Kelly	Eco Essence Homes	

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS & CHALLENGES

- Tweed has a transient population, lots of new people arriving
- new home owners desire for upfront value
- high waste load from residential waste now and in future for Council to manage
- high energy/waste bills for residential population
- BASIX – everyone knows how to get around it
- Private certification: key message = get the right certifier
- Challenges in zoning to allow onsite sewage treatment
- Planning frame works is the biggest impediment
- Need to make this business as usual
- Need to remember end user – initial costs higher opportunities for a business to invest in capital and then resident pays it back over time
- Council won't even look at alternatives – business as usual = fast track – otherwise slow/difficult/cost
- Need “Fit for Purpose” assessment (is this a good idea against set of key principles (Codify it)
- Perceptions are changing – need to embrace new ways eg. solar
- Risk – need for back up – still connect to mains water/power
- Who are the leaders being brave, doing new stuff?
- Can Council provide incentives?
- If some building companies/developers can lead some of this – try new things
- Flag up front – incentives or ideas/questions to prompt end use to try it?
 - cost
 - ease of approval
 - challenging sites
- Decisions are too often made on worst case scenario – too risk averse

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**POTENTIAL IDEAS TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES
FROM RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. Project home specification sheet
 - ?Liveability project
2. SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS of different homes:
 - eg. across 5 different types of home
 - track energy usage, waste, transport, carbon footprint across two years
3. Collaborative discussion with project homes – Metricon / GJ Gardner
 - eg. NOROC planners; Sustain NR Energy
 - Brett to put on agenda
4. PARTNERSHIP PROJECT:
 - eg. bulk purchase of light bulbs
5. DISPLAY HOME:
 - grant application
 - general education
 - eg. Josh's place – sustainable house no extra cost
 - review of what did/didn't work
6. DA SUSTAINABILITY REMINDER:
 - one pager
 - after S88b of the Conveyancing Act has been completed
 - ideas to discuss with your designer
 - best time for Council to educate – stage/phase in development

NEXT STEPS

- test ideas with Council officers around the table
- discussion with industry: we want to work with you