

Casuarina Beach

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Casuarina Beach, a new masterplanned township on 183ha of absolute beachfront on the Tweed Coast near Kingscliff, is a showcase development which typifies shades of green.

From the built environment to the natural environment the aim has been to create a distinctively Australian beach town that is both stylish and sustainable.

The developer, Consolidated Properties, is spending \$4 million on a comprehensive dune management plan which intends to restore the 3.5 km dunal area as closely as possible to its natural state – that is, the state it was in prior to being ravaged by decades of sandmining. The plan has been developed by local botanists and consultants from Aspect North in conjunction with Consolidated Properties, and includes the planting of tens of thousands of native species specific to the region and the creation of 20 carefully constructed beach crossovers that protect the dunes from human traffic.

Similarly, the Casuarina Beach stormwater control system is a major environmental breakthrough which mimics nature by recycling excess stormwater through the earth. It is designed to protect the water quality of nearby Cudgen Creek and the Pacific Ocean.

The company's environmental management plans includes a wide range of recommendations for the township's private land and covers everything from the developer creating conservation zones to support local fauna to encouraging purchasers to equip their homes with Sydney environmentalist Michael Mobb's sustainable house packages.

Already, around half of 35 house plans submitted for building approval have chosen the Mobbs' package, which is an array of energy, water and waste saving features that guarantees the owners a lifestyle more in tune with nature and will benefit their hip pockets over the life of the home.

Consolidated Properties' Don O'Rorke, who is leading by example in using the Michael Mobbs' package at his own Casuarina Beach home, is also committed to creating a town that will look typically Australian.

Building covenants restrict Tuscan, Mediterranean and Santa Fe styles of architecture and purchasers meet with Town Architect, Geoffrey Pie, to discuss community development and house design.

The developer also invited 14 renowned architects, including Geoffrey Pie, John Mainwaring, Lindsay and Kerry Clare, Bud Brannigan, Ed Haysom, Philip Follent and Annabel Lahz to design the "Quintessential Australian Beach House". Purchasers have been offered plans from this exposition however they are free to choose their own architect and create their own Australian beach house.

The overall result is that Casuarina Beach is a remarkable development which is attracting buyers keen to live in a green environment.

Without a doubt it sets an example to the building and development industry and will be used as a benchmark for a long time to come.

