



16 January 2012

Media Release

NEW HOMES OFFER VICTORIAN FAMILIES SAVINGS ON RISING ENERGY BILLS

New research has found living in a newly built home can save a Victorian family thousands of dollars in electricity costs when compared to the costs of living in a home built in 1981.

The research found Victorians living in newly built homes can save up to \$1,575 per year or over 60% off their bills – to operate a four bedroom, two bathroom home with a two car garage¹.

The research compared three and four bedroom homes built in 2011 to homes of the same configurations built in 1981 to help buyers better understand energy use and the benefits of sustainable home design.

Annual savings across the other states for a new four bedroom home, include \$2,197 in New South Wales (Sydney), \$1,748 in Western Australia (Perth), \$1,171 in North Queensland (Townsville) and \$1,074 in South East Queensland (Brisbane).

Stockland, General Manager of Sustainable Communities, Ben Allen said the majority of energy use in the average Australian home is generated from heating and cooling (38%), hot water heating (25%), appliances (16%), and lighting (7%)².

“A greater focus on sustainable design over recent years has led to changes in floor plans and orientation to make better use of the surrounding environment.

“A home that has greater access to natural light and uses modern building materials and techniques can generate a natural heating and cooling process during the warmer and cooler months. This coupled with improvements in energy ratings (star ratings) and efficient appliances has helped to reduce general consumption and running costs.”

Stockland is giving new home buyers a New Year reprieve by paying their energy bills for up to three years. From 9 January – 19 February 2012, every home and land package sold in a Stockland community in Victoria will come with a \$6,000 Visa Energy Card that new home owners can put towards the household’s energy bills once they move in.

Stockland Victorian Regional Manager, Mike Davis, said Stockland was pleased to be able to make living in a new home that little bit easier.

“The Power to Move campaign offers buyers a saving when they move into their home but also helps to educate them about the ongoing savings that can be made,” Mr Davis said.

Stockland’s Victorian partner builders have joined the initiative with a number of sustainable home designs and energy efficient upgrades available throughout the promotion. The participating builders include: Porter Davis, Metricon, Henley, Burbank, Simonds, Orbit Homes, Homebuyers Centre, Urban Edge, Carlisle Homes, Clarendon Homes, Mainvue Homes, Bella Haven Homes and Bentley Homes.

Energy efficient builder upgrades being offered include solar or gas hot water, an energy-saving dishwasher and energy efficient lighting to promote big savings on energy costs into the future.

Stockland strives to create communities that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and create the best living environment for its residents.

Stockland was recognised as the most sustainable property company in the world in the 2011/2012 Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI). The DJSI evaluates a company's sustainability performance, which includes their environmental policies and their response to climate change.

"We're constantly reviewing how we create our communities to come up with the most practical and effective ways to promote sustainability and deliver value for our customers," Mr Davis said.

Over 40 tailored home and land packages priced from \$321,500 are available across Stockland communities in Victoria throughout the campaign period.

Stockland residential communities reside in each of Melbourne's key growth areas including Highlands, Mernda Villages and Eucalypt in Melbourne's north, Selandra Rise and Arbourlea in the south east, Allura in the west and The Point on Melbourne's Bellarine Peninsula.

First home buyers also have access to the full government grant of \$20,000 (until 30 June 2012) and significant stamp duty savings.

To find out more about Stockland's *No Energy Bills* offer and get your free catalogue go to www.noenergybills.com.au, call 13 LAND or visit a Stockland Sales and Information Centres.

**Terms and conditions apply*

¹Methodology disclaimer:

- Modelling is based on sensible approach to operating household appliances, items included are either legislated or a necessity to occupy a home. Typical consumption and usage rates have been used.
- Calculations are approximate for industry average of 2-3 occupants, higher or lower levels of occupancy rates will change the figures.
- Predicted thermal performance has been calculated with BERSpro version 4.2
- Typical construction methods for the associated year have been used, custom or unusual methods would require alternative calculations.
- The assessment uses the 2011 cost of services/utilities for the comparison so to compare today's cost of living

² Average Home Energy Use - Baseline Energy Estimates – Your Home Manual 4th Edition

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