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## Media Release

### **SELANDRA COMMUNITY PLACE – SUSTAINABLE LIVING AT ITS BEST**

Casey residents are set to benefit from a new community centre dedicated to sustainable living with the launch of Selandra Community Place on Sunday 18 March 2012.

Located within the Selandra Rise residential community, Selandra Community Place will provide a place for local residents to connect and engage in wellbeing and environmentally sustainable initiatives.

The eight-star, zero carbon display home and educational hub will feature a range of interactive displays, DVD animations and 'take-home' information cards. This will allow visitors to learn how to be more efficient with energy, waste and water and improve their overall wellbeing.

City of Casey Mayor Cr Sam Aziz said it is fantastic that such an exciting innovation will give residents access to a myriad of information and a small business centre in their local neighbourhood.

"This sustainable and interactive display home is an exciting addition to this thriving residential community. An Australian-first concept, the community place will help residents make sustainable choices for their own homes, and will educate the local community on ways to improve their wellbeing and meet their neighbours to feel more connected to their community," said Cr Aziz.

Developed and implemented by the City of Casey, Stockland, Henley and the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA), Selandra Community Place has been modelled to address ways to save water, decrease energy use, minimise waste, improve wellbeing and connect to neighbours. This plays an important role in building a community with a core focus on the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Stockland General Manager Victoria, Andrew Whitson, said the masterplanned community has been created to provide all the amenities needed for a community to thrive.

"Selandra Rise has been designed and built with a focus on improving the quality of life for residents.

The opening of Selandra Community Place is fundamental to promoting sustainability and educating residents on ways to improve their wellbeing. This will become one of the most valuable resources and active spaces within the community," said Mr Whitson.

Using the latest technology and building practices the innovative community resource assists the community in thinking sustainably when building their new homes and through their actions.

Henley Properties Energy, Sustainability and Innovation Manager, Adam Selvay, said the structural design of the home considers the site orientation and the inclusion of building techniques and materials to demonstrate the benefits of an eight-star, zero energy home.



“For new home builders, including just some of the techniques and materials displayed, such as solar orientation, double glazing, insulation and air sealing will create financial and environmental savings for families,” said Mr Selvay.

South East Councils Climate Change Alliance Executive Officer, Greg Hunt said, “Selandra Community Place will assist the community to better understand the steps to take and materials and products to consider when constructing an environmentally-friendly home.

“SECCCA will be located on-site to provide information, advice, sustainability tours and the Sustainable Homes Program, so I encourage everyone to visit Selandra Community Place to see how they can help the environment and their own household budget by using less water and energy and decreasing waste”.

The Victorian Government, through the Sustainability Fund, managed by Sustainability Victoria has provided funding to assist in the display home’s interpretation. This included a detailed analysis of building products and their energy efficiency value, the development of the Sustainable Homes Program and staff to assist visitors with answers to any questions as they tour through the house.

The City of Casey will offer a comprehensive range of community and sustainability programs and services including:

- A small business centre and a business coffee club
- Sport and wellbeing activities including cricket, football, soccer, meditation and Tai Chi
- Workshops on sustainable gardening, interior design and DIY projects
- Opportunities to connect with the community such as Sunday brunches, coffee mornings and a housewarming event, and
- Information sessions on photography for beginners and starting a book club.

Selandra Community Place is located at 2 Forest Drive, Clyde North and will be managed by the City of Casey. Selandra Community Place will be open daily, seven-days-a-week and after-hours at scheduled activity times.

For more information, including a schedule of activities, visit [www.selandracommunityplace.com.au](http://www.selandracommunityplace.com.au).

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Stockland is one of Australia’s leading property groups, developing and managing a large portfolio of residential communities, retirement living villages, retail, office and industrial assets. Stockland was recognised as the Most Sustainable Property Company in the World in the 2011/12 [Dow Jones Sustainability Index](#).

Media enquiries

**Briony Carland**  
Account Manager  
**Undertow Media**

T +61 (0)3 8419 9320  
M +61 (0)4 08 219 851  
[briony@undertowmedia.com](mailto:briony@undertowmedia.com)

**Nat Burcul**  
Account Manager  
**Undertow Media**

T +61 (0)3 8419 9321  
M +61 (0)4 01 919 927  
[nat@undertowmedia.com](mailto:nat@undertowmedia.com)

Stockland enquiries

**Lucy Wilson**  
Corporate Affairs Consultant  
Stockland

T +61 (0)2 9035 2689  
M +61 (0)401 242 479  
E [lucy.wilson@stockland.com.au](mailto:lucy.wilson@stockland.com.au)