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Level 4  
99 Melbourne Street  
Brisbane, QLD 4000  
[www.stockland.com.au](http://www.stockland.com.au)

T 07 3305 8600  
F 07 3305 8702



Stockland



For media enquiries

**Teela Jurgensen**  
Pitch Public Relations  
T +61 (0)7 3398 8660  
M +61 (0)432 190 575  
[teela@pitchpr.com.au](mailto:teela@pitchpr.com.au)

**Greg Spears**  
Senior Manager  
Media Relations  
Stockland  
T +61 (0)2 9035 3263  
M +61 (0)406 315 014

## STUDENTS TUNE INTO WETLANDS MUSIC AT AURA

Two hundred students, school staff and community group members have listened to the music of the wetlands today (February 2) at Stockland's Aura community at Caloundra South as part of local celebrations for World Wetlands Day.

Natural ecosystems all have their own musical score and functional wetlands can be one of the most symphonic. But actually hearing the music in all its depth and meaning takes a well-trained ear.

Frog expert Doctor Ed Meyer, from the School of Environmental and Applied Sciences at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus, explained the meaning behind the music of wetlands to Unity College students, staff and members of the Aura Community Advisory Group before heading out into the field to look at a variety of wetlands at Aura.

Though the breeding season may not yet be upon us with the late rains, Dr Meyer can easily make up for any silences with his own accurate frog call imitations.

Dr Meyer, along with Dr Mark Bayley from Australian Wetlands Consultancy, guided the school tour to Aura to visit a frog pond that was constructed and planted on World Wetlands Day last year at the restoration project site at Little Italy, and a site further upstream on Bells Creek.

They explored the variety of conditions, tested water quality and discussed the pending collaborative research project to set up acoustic equipment to monitor the fauna as it repopulates the once degraded pine plantation.

Mark Stephens, Senior Development Manager at Stockland, said it was great to be able to show the students the progress of the frog pond and help them to have a better understanding of the wetlands close to their school.

"With support funding from the Queensland Government's Healthy Country Program and encouragement from the community to act early, we have excluded 400 hectares from stock in the future conservation area so that the ecosystem can regenerate naturally," Mr Stephens said.

"We are now committing to a further 5.4 kilometres of fencing to exclude stock from 60 hectares of North Bells Creek on the Aura site, well ahead of the development requirements."

Susie Chapman, Project Manager at SEQ Catchments, facilitates the Caloundra South Community Stewardship program, which was developed by Stockland, the Sunshine Coast Council and environmental community organisations to identify and optimise community land care opportunities within the Aura site.

"With the removal of pine wildings from 500 hectares of future conservation land - thanks to the Australian Government funded Bells Creek Green Army - we are

seeing an explosion of life returning to this rich and varied landscape,” Ms Chapman said.

“This is being assisted with plantings from locally sourced seed grown in the Landcare nurseries and the Aura Flora nursery, recently established for training and education.”

In 2015, this initiative to involve community early in the development of Aura won an internal national Stockland award for community projects. Aura has also been accredited with a 6 Star Green Star – Communities rating by the Green Building Council of Australia.

“We expect that other developments will follow this lead, and early and meaningful community involvement will become the norm,” Mr Stephens said.

The Green Army is a hands-on, practical environmental action program that supports local environmental and heritage conservation projects across Australia. The Australian Government program is for young Australians aged 17-24 years who are interested in protecting their local environment.

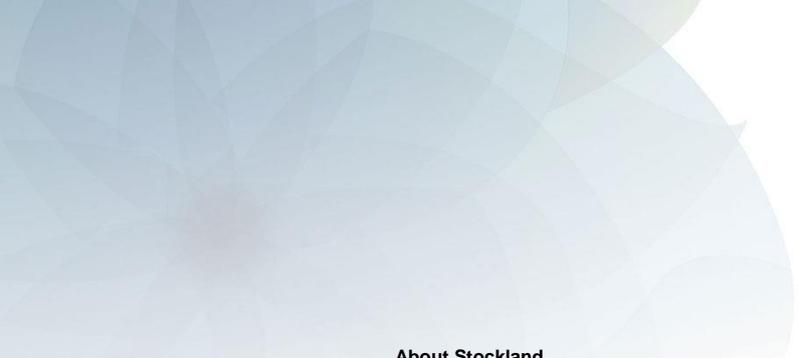
## **ENDS**

### **Key facts about Aura**

- Stockland has chosen the name ‘Aura’ to reflect the bright, vibrant, ‘city of colour’ it is planning to create at Caloundra South on the Sunshine Coast.
- Aura will occupy 24 square kilometres (2,360 hectares) of land with the new development front starting south of Lamerough Creek near Stockland’s existing Bells Reach community, and ultimately stretching west and south to meet the Bruce Highway at the new Bell’s Creek Interchange.
- Stockland will deliver 20,000 dwellings at Aura, becoming home to around 50,000 people over the next 30 years.
- The community will include a new city centre and retail hub, a Southbank style urban parkland, an elite sporting and performance precinct and two business and enterprise parks.
- Aura will include 10 separate sporting grounds, in addition to parks and playgrounds within easy walking distance of every home, 20 schools and education centres.
- More than 700 hectares, nearly one-third of the site, will be rehabilitated and designated as conservation and environmental protection land.
- Stockland will invest more than \$1 billion over the first 10 years of the project. The total value of the project is \$5 billion.
- Aura will generate direct and indirect jobs for more than 1,700 people in the first year alone and create 18,500 direct and indirect jobs over the first 10 years of the project.

### **Aura’s 6 Star Green Star – Communities rating**

- In early 2015, the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) endorsed the master plan for Aura by accrediting the project with the highly coveted 6 Star Green Star – Communities rating. The rating signifies ‘world leadership’ for the design of the future city.
- Stockland’s master plan has achieved the highest possible standards for the future community’s long-term economic prosperity, ‘liveability’ and environmental responsibility during, and well after construction is completed and the community is established.

**About Stockland**

Stockland (ASX: SGP) was founded in 1952 and has grown to become Australia's largest diversified property group – owning, developing and managing a large portfolio of shopping centres, residential communities, retirement living villages, office and industrial assets. Stockland was recognised by the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) as the global real estate sector leader for 2015-16, demonstrating world leadership across the areas of stakeholder engagement, customer relationship management, supply chain management, biodiversity and climate change strategy. Stockland was recognised as the Regional Sector Leader for Listed, Australian, Diversified Property Companies in the 2015 GRESB Report.

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