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## **STARS ALIGN FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS IN SOUTH WEST SYDNEY: NEW, GREEN, WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY**

One of the most popular communities for first home buyers in Sydney, Willowdale at Denham Court, has been accredited by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) for world-leading design excellence, innovation and environmental stewardship and as a centre for future economic prosperity and liveability.

The GBCA has awarded Stockland's Willowdale residential development with the highly coveted and internationally-recognised 6 Star Green Star – Communities rating, which recognises world leadership across a wide range of environmental, economic and social sustainability measures. The GBCA has also awarded the new Willowdale Retirement Village with a 4 Star Green Star – Design and As Built rating.

In addition to Willowdale, Stockland has achieved 5 or 6 Star Green Star – Community ratings at six other residential developments throughout Australia. This includes 6 Star ratings awarded to its new green cities of Aura on the Sunshine Coast and Cloverton in northern Melbourne, making Stockland Australia's leading developer of Green Star residential communities.

One of the greatest strengths of the Willowdale masterplanned community, and fundamental to its achievement of the 6 Star rating, is its liveability. Willowdale is providing a range of housing options to appeal to a diverse range of buyers, and making a marked impact on affordability in Sydney by providing home sites and new townhouses below the comparable median prices of surrounding suburbs.

Willowdale is also providing residents with convenient access to new and existing infrastructure, such as nearby schools, numerous local retail, dining, entertainment and employment precincts outside the community, and the new Leppington Train Station, which is located less than 1.5 kilometres away via a shared walkway and cycleway. Construction will soon commence on Willowdale neighbourhood shopping centre and there is a proposal for a state primary school to be developed within the 350 hectare community.

In addition to its focus on liveability, Stockland has excelled with its environmental protection, setting aside areas of endangered remnant vegetation and riparian corridors for rehabilitation, which will create a natural, green setting and outlook for

the community, while encouraging greater biodiversity, attracting birds and providing habitat for other native wildlife.

Romilly Madew, CEO of the Green Building Council of Australia, said: “Stockland has achieved world’s best practice for its masterplan for Willowdale. While Stockland’s focus on liveability means the community will be an extraordinary place for residents, the company’s environmental leadership is also worthy of applause.

“Stockland is also setting new standards in Australia in its respect and holistic management of the indigenous heritage of the site. Stockland has applied the latest technologies to uncover and preserve some incredible artefacts discovered on-site, including the only fully intact earthenware oven ever found.”

Mark Steinert, CEO and Managing Director at Stockland, said: “Home buyers are increasingly interested in understanding and making informed decisions about the sustainability of new residential developments. The Green Star – Communities rating uses a comprehensive scorecard to provide customers with a simple, straightforward means of assessing the sustainability of new communities.”

“We’re in the business of building healthy, smart, connected communities,” explained Mr Steinert. “We’ve made a conscious and concerted effort over many years to improve the sustainability of our supply chain and the location and design of our communities to ensure we can offer tangible, long-term benefits to customers who choose to buy and build in a Stockland community.”

Gavin Tonnet, Stockland’s General Manager Residential NSW, explained there was a multitude of factors contributing to Willowdale’s 6 Star rating, with detailed planning and well considered delivery ensuring the community is set up to succeed and thrive in perpetuity.

“Everything that goes into our Green Star rating - more green spaces with better and safer parks and playgrounds; more sustainable, high-quality materials selection; or the connectedness and walkability of our neighbourhoods - makes Willowdale a better place and a better way to live.

“Willowdale’s proximity to the new Leppington Train Station scored well in the Green Star – Communities rating tool because it will offer residents an easy commute into Liverpool, Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. Rail is a very green transport solution and it increases the liveability and affordability of our community,” he explained. “It makes it viable and affordable for people to live in a home that offers a more predictable commute, which means residents will spend less time in traffic and more time with their families.

“Convenient access to rail also makes it far more feasible for families to function very effectively with a single vehicle, which offers direct cost savings,” explained Mr Tonnet. “There is an obvious environmental benefit to housing that supports single

car families, and this opens the door to other cost savings by enabling home buyers to consider a wider variety of housing types such as single garage detached homes and terrace-style townhouses.”

Stockland has so far sold more than 1,000 residential lots at Willowdale. On completion, Willowdale will comprise more than 3,000 homes, a neighbourhood shopping centre anchored by a full-line Coles supermarket and specialty stores. Stockland has also made provision in the masterplan for 25 acres of parks and playgrounds and the inclusion of a new state primary school.

Customers can register their interest in acquiring a block of land or one of the townhouses at [www.stockland.com.au/willowdale](http://www.stockland.com.au/willowdale), by calling 13 5263, or by visiting the on-site Sales and Information Centre.

## **ENDS**

### **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. [www.stockland.com.au](http://www.stockland.com.au)