



UDIA NAMES BEST IN STATE

PAULA SHEARER

THE Urban Development Institute of Australia has recognised 14 Queensland projects in this year's state awards.

The accolades acknowledge projects ranging from small residential subdivisions to high-density developments, seniors' living and affordable housing.

UDIA Queensland president Brett Gillan said the winners showed leadership and innovation. "They are helping to shape the future, not only of the development industry, but the communities we live in and how we live in them," he said.

The coveted President's Award, presented to projects that change the way we think about development, was presented to Springfield Land Corporation, Lend Lease and Mirvac for the Greater Springfield project. Mr Gillan said it was impressive both in scale and diversity.

"The vision behind Greater Springfield brings to life a six-suburb large development – or mini city – that incorporates universities, schools, major hospitals, major retail,

commercial and industry as well as residential homes," he said. "It shows genuine industry leadership.

"This project has now reached a level of maturity that demonstrates the viability and strength of the original vision and this deserves to be acknowledged and recognised.

"This project has not only set a standard for developments in Queensland, but across Australia and internationally".

Bells Reach in Caloundra West (Stockland) and Woodlands in Mackay (Economic Development Queensland) respectively won

the Residential Subdivision and Affordable Housing categories.

Each subdivision offers affordability and sustainability while maintaining large open space and neighbourhood connectivity.

Mr Gillan said affordability, delivered with benchmark living facilities, was a UDIA priority. "These winners show that affordable can also mean sustainable, beautiful and livable," he said.

"They are helping pave the way in setting new standards for more efficient, practical and

diverse housing styles that are not only achievable, but also desirable to home buyers."

Stockland Sunshine Coast regional manager Ben Simpson said the company was proud of what it had achieved at Bells Reach, including a variety of two-storey urban terraces and a new series of combined "shopfront" homes.

Mr Simpson said Stockland's vision had been to create a connected, affordable and highly desirable village community where living sustainably cost less.

"From the start we wanted to make Bells Reach an exemplar community that provided an insight into our commitment and ability to deliver leading sustainable developments throughout Queensland and Australia," he said. "This project has done just that.

"It has introduced the lowest new home price seen on the Sunshine Coast in many years and it has included countless new sustainability initiatives that will be emulated for many years to come.

"It has also showcased the very best in community development through a massive

program of regular signature events and other initiatives

around health and wellbeing, connectivity and community engagement."

The iconic Gasworks Plaza by Aveo Group won the UDIA's Urban Renewal Award for its transformation of an industrial Newstead wasteland into a vibrant community, while retaining heritage elements as a monument to the area's humble beginnings.

The Village Coorparoo by The Village Retirement Group won two awards – Medium Density Development (Large) and Seniors' Living.

The project lets Baby Boomers stay in the inner-city, close to friends and family, in accessible, multistorey living with multiple retirement and assisted-living options.

Chief executive Justin Harrison said the group was setting a new standard in retirement living. "The success we are experiencing is simply a testament to the entire project, which boasts unique architecture for the category, along with a range of first-class facilities for residents to enjoy," he said.

The village now has 178 residents, but on completion will have 217 two and three-bedroom independent living apartments.

The Green Quarter at Hamilton Reach took top honours for its eco-friendly design, winning the award for Environmentally Sustainable Development (Residential).

Designed to reduce energy and water consumption, all its homes are built with a 3kW photovoltaic solar system, double-glazing windows and doors, a 3000 litre rainwater tank plumbed to the toilets and laundry, and smart metering to allow for monitoring of energy and water usage.

Australand Queensland residential general manager Cameron Leggatt said the award recognised its careful planning and design.

"We are incredibly proud to receive this award, which gives credit to the architecture, intelligent design and incorporation of environmentally sustainable principles," Mr Leggatt said.

"It has met strong demand for savvy eco-product and riverfront living and has been

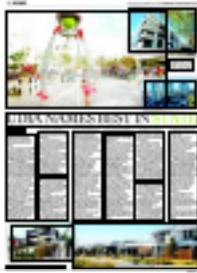
one of the strongest market performers in Brisbane since its release in 2011.

"It is a one-of-a-kind product on offer in the Northshore Hamilton area, but we hope this award makes The Green Quarter a perfect example for future environmentally sustainable developments across the state."

Other project that picked up state UDIA awards included: Palm Beach Heights Estate, Small Residential Subdivision; Twenty on Queens, Medium Density Development (Small); Hamilton Harbour, High Density Development; Jezzine Barracks, Environmentally Sustainable Development (Retail); VIDA, Marketing Excellence; and Halcyon Landing, Consultant's Excellence.

The joint Redland City Council and Economic Development Queensland Priority Development Areas at Toondah Harbour and Weinam Creek won the Wildcard Award.

The projects are designed to improve the gateways from the mainland to the Moreton Bay islands.



INNOVATIVE VISION: Twenty on Queens at Taringa (above) and Bells Reach at Caloundra (right).





AWARD WINNERS: Greater Springfield (left), The Village Coorparoo (above), and Hamilton Harbour (below).



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