

EnviroDevelopment – Ecosystems

Whenever you see the **EnviroDevelopment – Ecosystems** icon, it means that the development displaying that symbol has met the requirements to qualify for **EnviroDevelopment – Ecosystems** certification.

EnviroDevelopment – Ecosystems recognises a development that has taken steps to protect and enhance the health and sustainability of natural systems, encourage native biodiversity and rehabilitate degraded sites. In particular, the development will be designed to achieve the following:

- Comprehensive ecological research to determine and protect significant ecosystem features.
- Measures to protect and/or rehabilitate native vegetation, native habitats and ecological corridors.
- Protection of waterways and natural systems through water sensitive urban design, appropriate drainage, stormwater management provisions, and protection of the natural hydrological regime.
- Minimal disruption to landform and natural ecosystems through sensitive construction methods.
- Preservation of existing flora species such as through the use of native species for landscaping purposes, rehabilitation of disturbed sites, bushfire mitigation, retention of existing native trees above 3 metres in height, and green space contributions.
- Protection of native fauna through mechanisms such as retention and enhancement of ecological corridors, traffic management strategies, pest management strategy, dog and cat exclusion zones, and green space contributions.

Homebuyer and Occupant Benefits:

Developments awarded **EnviroDevelopment – Ecosystems** certification are designed to present significant advantages including:

- Reduction in the occupier's 'ecological footprint'¹
- Enhanced interaction with nature
- A healthy living environment

¹ Ecological Footprint: a measure of how much land and water is needed to produce the resources we consume and to dispose of the waste we produce. Source: http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/sustainability/industry/sustainability_roadmap/glossary/

² Environmental Protection Agency, 2003, State of the Environment Queensland 2003, Available at: <http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/register/p01258by.pdf>

³ WWF, 2004, Species Die out as Australia Heats Up, Available at: <http://www.wwf.org.au/news/n149/>

⁴ Healthy Waterways, 2006, Available at: http://www.healthywaterways.org/filelibrary/2_management_actions.pdf



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All calculations and estimates have been made using current data where available. For further information, see the EnviroDevelopment standards at www.envirodevelopment.com.au. Actual development performance will vary depending on usage patterns and inhabitants.



ECOSYSTEMS



Fast Facts:

- Queensland is Australia's most naturally diverse state with over 1800 fauna species, and over 10,000 plant species².
- Currently there are 1,695 plants and animals facing the threat of extinction in Australia³. Environmentally responsible development can assist in the preservation of Queensland's diverse ecosystems.
- By implementing water sensitive urban design features such as swales and bioretention basins, the developer has assisted in the reduction of the amount of suspended solids and pollution entering our waterways, thereby protecting water quality and aquatic flora and fauna⁴.
- Sediment loads are expected to increase by over 60% in South-East Queensland alone⁴. Increased sediment loads can lead to reduced water quality, and therefore have significant effects on aquatic flora and fauna.