

APA and the Environment

In line with Australian Property Alliance's commitment to being an industry leader in providing sustainable housing and our desire for working to reverse the effects of climate change, we are taking firm steps to ensure that we play a positive and effective role in creating a sustainable future for coming generations.

All our new developments are designed and built to comply with the minimum national requirements of the 5 Star rating. However, we are going a step further by implementing the WA State Government's 5 Star Plus initiative, which pushes the energy efficiency boundaries even further (**see www.5starplus.wa.gov.au**).

By combining smart design features and sourcing quality products, APA endeavours to minimise the impact of its developments on the environment and provide immediate and long-term benefits to its customers and the community at large.

We are achieving this through features such as:

- 3 or 4 Star rated water efficient fittings and fixtures
- Energy efficient hot water systems
- Roof and wall insulation
- Dual Flush toilets
- Appropriate size, type, orientation and shading of windows
- Controlling of draughts to reduce loss of conditioned air
- Locating hot water outlets close to hot water systems to minimise heat and energy loss
- Use of bore water for common area landscaping reticulation where possible
- Use of waterwise plants and gardens

We are also launching our **Niche Sustainable Living** initiative, whereby homebuyers of *The Niche* estates can have state-of-the-art, innovative, energy and water efficient products installed in their home that make it more sustainable and reduce its impact on the environment. The homebuyer only needs to contribute a fraction of the retail price of any of the products to have them installed in their home. This initiative includes:

- Solar gas-boosted hot water system
- Grey water system
- Rain water tank system

By applying these and other features in our developments, we are not only helping to save our environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but we are also providing cost savings to each homeowner in the form of reduced energy and water bills.

We are currently in discussion with the South East Regional Energy Group (SEREG - a local government partnership) to get all *Niche* developments accredited under the award-winning "Switch Your Thinking" brand, which delivers sustainability initiatives to local communities.

Sustainable facts:

- *Installing 5 Star Plus water efficiency features in your new home can save more than 100,000 litres of water per year - this is equivalent to two and a half backyard swimming pool*
- *Using an efficient solar hot water system instead of an electric system saves around four tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per annum – which is as much as an average car produces in a year*
- *By switching from an electric hot water system to a solar hot water system and using an efficiently controlled booster, you can reduce your hot water bills in Perth by up to 75% per annum*
- *By installing a water efficient dual flush toilet you can save up to 30,000 litres of water per annum*

* Source: 5 Star Plus – A New Standard in Sustainable Living, by the Department of Housing and Works WA