

Home has benefit of recycling



By **GREG BERGHOFER**
gregb@thechronicle.com.au

DEVELOPER Mac Stirling says environmentally-sustainable homes that his company has developed at Highfields will cost 15% more than a similar conventional home, but a prudent home owner would recoup that within about a decade.

The first of six Protect Our World Environment Resources (POWER) homes his company, Lauder Pty Ltd, built had its recycled water system turned on yesterday.

The recycled water is not, however, to drinking standard but will be used for toilet flushing, watering gardens and other outside use —

unlike the State Government's proposal for South East Queenslanders to drink recycled water of a higher standard.

The POWER home's recycled water is reticulated through a purple pipe which separates it from the drinkable (potable) water.

"Through our discussions with Crows Nest Shire Council, they came up with a recycled water system which supplied us with purple pipe dual mains that supplied our house with water to a 3000 litre in-ground tank for toilet flush and garden use," Mr Stirling said.

"Other initiatives are a 5000 gallon or 22,000 litre in-ground rainwater tank. That means a four-bedroom home with normal water usage would be 90% self-sufficient from the potable water grid."



Lauder Pty Ltd managing director Mac Stirling at an environmentally-sustainable home in Highfields which will be the first to utilise recycled water.

PICTURE: BEV LACEY