SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION IN A SIX-STAR GREEN BUILDING: THE CASE OF BOND UNIVERSITY, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

Sustainability has become an essential element of developing and managing residential, commercial, retail and industrial properties. The leading Australian development company, MIRVAC, feels a strong sense of responsibility to the people to its business partners and the broader community. Mirvac also considers itself a leader in corporate social responsibility, specifically focusing on addressing issues related to social, economic and environmental sustainability. The company has shown corporate leadership in introducing new technologies and practical measures in all its property related activities. Mirvac is now partnering with Bond University and established the Bond University Mirvac School of Sustainable Development. This is an Australian first. It reflects a long-term investment in the next generation of students who will develop an invaluable understanding of the growing importance of sustainability and bring that knowledge into the business world.

Bond University’s Mirvac School of Sustainable Development is the first designated planning and design institute that fully integrates environmental, urban planning and design disciplines with the practical issues of economic viability, environmental sensitivity and societal expectations. Drawing together the academic and practical expertise of the best minds in the business, the School is dedicated to fostering a new breed of innovative, imaginative and inventive professionals, fired with the ambition to create buildings, urban developments, towns and, most importantly, communities that will provide a lasting legacy for future generations. This paper presents the philosophy and content that underpin the sustainability focus in its suite of built environment courses.

Details of the School’s innovative new six-star rated sustainable education building due for completion early 2008 are an important focus of this paper. This building is a pilot for Australia’s green rating system (equivalent to the UK and US systems of rating) and represents the best international practice. The design features incorporated into this building and its evaluation are presented as a useful exemplar for these types of buildings.

Keywords: Education, six-star green rating, sustainable development, sustainable building.