



Building newsflash number 381

Build it Back Green—Toward Q2 foundation partnership with Green Cross Australia

Purpose

To announce a Toward Q2 foundation partnership between the Queensland Government and Green Cross Australia.

Background

On 8 July 2009, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP released a media statement announcing the first Toward Q2 Partner projects, one of which was Green Cross Australia's 'Build it back green'. This project aims to encourage Queenslanders, where practical, to 'build it back green' after natural disasters.

Green Cross Australia is a national non-government organisation that helps communities prepare for the environmental impacts of climate change. Green Cross Australia aims to support and inspire the communities impacted by natural disasters such as bushfires and floods to 'build it back green' with practical assistance to help communities rebuild in an environmentally sustainable manner. Green Cross Australia's philosophy to 'build it back green' has been successfully implemented by its US affiliate Global Green USA, who helped homeowners to rebuild in a more energy efficient way after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Legislation

Under the *Building Act 1975*, building work that requires a building development application must comply with relevant applied building assessment provisions such as the [Queensland Development Code \(QDC\) Mandatory Part \(MP\) 4.1—Sustainable Buildings](#). Plumbing and drainage work that requires a plumbing application must comply with the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 and applied provisions such as the Plumbing Code of Australia and the [Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code \(QPW Code\)](#).

Building and plumbing work undertaken following a natural disaster (e.g. cyclone, bushfire, flood) may not require a building development application or plumbing application. In this instance, building professionals are encouraged, where practical, to persuade home owners to 'build it back green' and adopt the requirements of the [QDC MP 4.1](#) and the [QPW Code](#). This could be as simple as installing a greenhouse-efficient hot water system (i.e. solar, heat pump or gas) or adding insulation into the ceiling space.

Queensland-specific 'build it back green' information is presently being prepared by Green Cross. Further information on Green Cross Australia can be found on their [website](#).



Fact sheets and guideline

Several fact sheets are available on the department's [website](#) outlining frequently asked questions on the sustainability requirements of the QDC MP 4.1 including the minimum 5-star (out of 10) energy equivalence rating, energy efficient lighting, water efficiency and energy efficient air-conditioners.

The QDC MP 4.1—Sustainable Buildings guideline provides further technical advice on the 5-star, energy efficient lighting and water efficiency requirements. Technical advice on the air-conditioner requirements will be added to the guideline in the future. The guideline is also available [online](#).

Contact for further information

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