

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 373**  
**Asked on Thursday 9 March 2006**

**MRS SULLIVAN** asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the new Sustainable Housing Program—  
What is the environmental design requirements for dwellings to be built in Queensland from now on?

**ANSWER:**

The sustainable building requirements will make new houses more energy and water efficient. The requirements for new housing include:

- energy-efficient lighting for at least 40 per cent of the house;
- greenhouse-efficient hot water systems;
- water-saving shower roses to achieve at least 3 star or AAA performance;
- devices to limit water pressure in areas with high water pressure; and
- toilets to be dual-flush with a maximum cistern size of 6 litres on full flush and 3 litres on half flush.

In addition, councils will be able to require the installation of rainwater tanks in new houses in designated areas where it can be shown there is a community benefit from doing so.

These requirements apply to houses and townhouses. Three of the measures will also apply to units, namely energy-efficient lighting, 3 star or AAA shower roses and dual-flush toilets. Two of the measures also apply to major renovations, namely 3 star or AAA shower roses and dual-flush toilets.

These requirements are already having a positive impact, driving changes in the building industry and improving energy efficiency beyond what is required by the regulations. A major lighting company has informed my Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation that its customers are requesting their house designs include 80 per cent energy-efficient lighting. This is double the minimum requirement set out in the building regulations. The company suggests that, after examining energy-efficient lighting, house owners realise this is a good idea that should be applied throughout their houses.