

going green

Paving the way for Positive Change

VILLAWOOD Properties is leading the way in the race to help save the environment through a Positive Change program.

Introduced in June, the initiative aims to protect forests and educate prospective homebuyers on the benefits of energy efficiency. The three-tiered program incorporates enviroSTAR, forestSTAR and kidsSTAR, a scheme that provides donations to the Royal Children's Hospital.

Villawood joint executive director Rory Costelloe said that Positive Change had been a year in the making and attempted to touch on social, health, economic and moral values of the community.

"The idea is to provide land for forestry, raise money for sick children and highlight the importance of building more sustainable homes," he said.

"The enviroSTAR aspect has been developed in line with Villawood's 'Wishlist', a web-based initiative that educates prospective homebuyers on the benefits of energy efficient installations.

"Visitors to the website can view the potential savings, both environmental and financial, that may be made when adopting energy concessions such as double glazed windows and energy-efficient light bulbs.

"Our forestSTAR program is focused on forest sustainability in Victoria with Kamarooka National Forest in Bendigo being the key beneficiary. Under a deal brokered with the Victorian Government, for every square metre of land purchased in a Villawood property, an equivalent amount will be donated to the preservation of Kamarooka."

Mr Costelloe said that under the kidsSTAR program, Villawood would donate \$100 to the Royal Children's Hospital for every allotment sold. A donation of \$17,600 had been made to improve medical services and facilities.

Details: www.villawoodpositivechange.com.au