14 July 2004
Minister names winners of Eco-friendly home awards

Lands and Planning Minister Dr Chris Burns today praised the ingenuity, innovation and style of Territory designers and builders as he announced the winners of the Year of the Built Environment house competition.

The competition, which was launched in March this year, called for entrants to design an energy efficient house to build on a block of land in either Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs.

The team of Bennett Design and Overlander Homes overcame three other entries for the Palmerston design, while the team of Zone A and Centralian Construction defeated one other competitor for the Alice Springs prize. There were no entries received for the design of a house in Katherine.

The prize for the two winning teams will be the ability to build their designs on the relevant blocks of land, which the Government will sell to them for $40,000 below market value.

Dr Chris Burns said the high calibre of entries illustrated how homes in the Territory could be built to make maximum use of environmental conditions to minimise the use of power and water.

“The two winning designers should be applauded for their efforts in thinking outside the square, so to speak, in designing a home that is regarded as environmentally friendly housing,” Dr Burns said.

“They make exceptional use of our climate, by optimising energy and water efficiency, to enhance our unique Territorian lifestyle.

“Now the task of building these affordable, energy efficient and environmentally sustainable homes begins.”

Dr Burns said he hoped the housing market would take notice of the winning designs, and would ensure that energy efficient homes became the Territory standard.

“These homes will be built at Rosebery in Palmerston and at Engoordina in Alice Springs,” he said.

“The judging criteria focused on the houses’ compatibility with the environment, while taking into account safety, comfort and affordability. The chosen designs compare extremely well with the cost of building new homes in the Territory.”

All the entries will be exhibited at the Deckchair Cinema in Darwin at 6.30pm, Thursday 15 July.