

Gympie **Today**

HOME BUILDERS

GUIDE

SECOND EDITION



Build your dream, don't buy it

By Donna Jones

AS the great Australian dream becomes increasingly more expensive to own an established home, more and more people are choosing to build as a way to get the features and amenities that will work for them with a much friendlier price tag.

While established homes can have character, they can also have any myriad of issues such as termite, structural or water damage, poor ventilation so they are draughty in winter and sweltering in summer, poor insulation thereby costing a small fortune to heat or cool, or can be badly dated and sorely need a facelift.

Even if you find a property relatively problem free, the massive ticket price is just the start with all the additional fees and charges that go on top adding up to be a monumental mortgage and headache.

A much more affordable option for many people is to build their own home.

These days, building companies can often package up the house and land and prospective buyers can customise layouts, fixtures and finishes and even factor in external living spaces and landscaping.

The Gympie region is a great place to buy and build, with its close proximity to Brisbane and the coast, and the expanding list of amenities, shops and restaurants, excellent



schools and universities, while still retaining the friendliness of a small town.

It's no wonder people are moving to the area in record numbers. This booklet is a handy guide on building

your own home and services and businesses that can help you achieve your dream.

GympieToday HOME ▲ BUILDERS GUIDE

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Proposed laws concern industry

By Master Builders Australia

RESPONDING to the latest National Accounts, the inextricable ties between construction activity and the broader health of the economy are once again on display but proposed draconian industrial relations laws risk upending the industry and eroding economic growth says Master Builders Australia CEO Denita Wawn.

The economy grew by 0.4 per cent over the June quarter.

Construction increased 2.2 per cent and was the strongest contributor to gross value added growth.

"Productivity is the key driver of economic growth and the IR omnibus Bill currently before parliament does nothing to foster higher productivity or to reduce the costs of running a business," Ms Wawn said.

"Economic growth is essential to our members' business success and the ability to meet the residential, commercial and civil construction needs of the community.

"A stronger building and construction industry means a stronger Australia. Every \$1 million worth of building activity supports around \$3 million in activity across the economy."



This multiplier effect is vital to keep the economy away from the risks of falling into a recession, she said.

"The building and construction industry accounts for around 10 per cent of GDP and is made up of over 445,000 businesses, many of whom are small businesses who are doing it tough in the midst of a cost of living crisis and a profitless boom.

"We need to back small business and make it easier for them to succeed, we need to invest more in skills, cut red tape, tackle low productivity and high

inflation, and critically, ensure that industrial relations laws support growth in our industry.

"Self-employed tradies and subbies have worked hard to establish their businesses, build strong relationships, and enjoy the freedom to choose how they operate.

"Make no mistake, the rights of independent contractors to be their own boss is under threat. The Government's 'closing the loopholes' Bill will not foster business growth, will not create new jobs and will not increase productivity.

"Wrapping a rope of unnecessary, complex, ambiguous, and costly laws around the industry will do nothing to speed up our efforts in tackling the housing crisis.

"We need to increase capacity and flexibility of the building and construction industry not turn people away because it's all too hard.

"This Bill is not about closing loopholes but opens the door for the union movement to extend their stranglehold of the industry to new sectors including the residential sector.

"Minister Burke needs to abandon this extreme overreach and work alongside other Ministers and members of Parliament who are working

constructively with the business community to move Australia forward," Ms Wawn.

Figures released by the Master Builders Australia show that while total construction output was unchanged during the June 2023 quarter, this was achieved by using fewer inputs than before.

Effectively, the building and construction industry has been doing more with less.

The report say the 2.2 per cent rise in construction activity was driven by:

- 3.5 per cent rise in construction services driven by trades, and land development and sub-division services;
- 1.2 per cent rise in heavy and civil engineering construction due to increased infrastructure project activity; and
- 0.1 per cent rise in building construction driven by non-residential construction.

However, dwelling investment fell by 0.2 per cent and house construction fell, with ongoing constraints on labour further extending average completion times confirming the importance of attracting more people to the industry and maintaining a flexible workforce.



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Looking to buy your first home?

By [ato.gov.au](#)

HOW you can use some of your eligible voluntary super contributions to help buy your first home.

The scheme allows you to make voluntary contributions (both before-tax concessional and after-tax non-concessional) into your super fund to save for your first home.

You can apply to have a maximum of \$15,000 of your voluntary contributions from any one financial year included in your eligible contributions to be released under the FHSS scheme, up to a total of \$50,000 contributions across all years.

Contributions released under the FHSS scheme can be used to buy a new or existing home in Australia.

Important things to know

- Superannuation guarantee contributions made by your employer, and spouse contributions cannot be released under the FHSS scheme.
- You must apply for and receive a FHSS determination from the ATO before signing a contract for your first home or applying for release of your FHSS amounts.
- You can apply to have a maximum of \$15,000 of your voluntary contributions from any one financial year included in your eligible contributions to be released under the FHSS scheme, up to a total of \$50,000 contributions across all years.
- You can only request a release under the FHSS scheme once.
- After you make your release request, it may take between 15 and 20 business days for you to receive your money. You should consider this timing when you start your home buying activities.
- You must make your release request within 14 days of signing a property contract.

Other things to know

- The home you purchase or construct must be located in Australia.
- You can sign your contract to purchase your property after you make a valid release request.



- If you have an outstanding debt with the ATO or another Commonwealth agency, your FHSS release amount may be offset against this debt. Payment of your FHSS amount could be delayed or reduced (including to nil) or both if you have an outstanding Commonwealth debt.
- You have 12 months from the date you make a valid release request to notify us if you have signed a contract to purchase or construct your home, or recontribute the required amount to your super fund.

Eligibility

- You're 18 years old or older when requesting a FHSS determination or a release of money under the FHSS scheme.
- You're a first home buyer, having never owned property in Australia – this includes an investment property, vacant land, commercial property, a lease of land in Australia, or a company title interest in land in Australia.

- You intend to occupy the property you buy as soon as practicable and for at least 6 months within the first 12 months you own it after it's practical to move in.

- You have not previously made a FHSS release request.

How you can save in super

- Entering into a salary sacrifice arrangement with your employer to make voluntary concessional contributions.
- Making voluntary personal super contributions, which will be concessional if you claim an income tax deduction for them.

Before you start saving you should:

- Check that your nominated super fund(s) will release the money
- Ask your fund about any fees, charges and insurance implications that may apply
- Check that your super fund has your current contact details

- Be aware that if you receive FHSS amounts it will affect your tax for the year in which you make the request to release

Eligible contributions

You can make the following types of contributions under the FHSS scheme:

- Voluntary concessional contributions – including salary sacrifice amounts or contributions you have claimed or intend to claim a tax deduction for (usually taxed at 15% in your fund).
- Voluntary non-concessional contributions.

How your contributions are ordered

- When you make voluntary contributions into super, the order and type of the contributions can make a difference to the amount released under the FHSS scheme.
- To calculate your FHSS maximum release amount, ordering rules apply. You don't have to do the calculations yourself.

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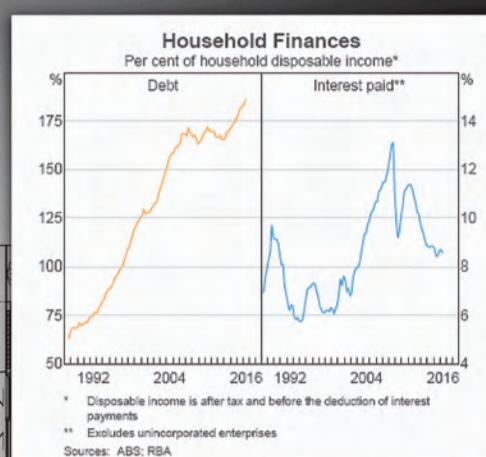
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Your contributions are counted towards your release amounts as follows:

- A first-in first-out rule applies – this means that contributions you make in an earlier financial year are counted before contributions in a later financial year. Contributions you make within a financial year are counted in the order you make them.
- A simultaneous contributions rule applies – this means that if you make

an eligible concessional contribution and an eligible non-concessional contribution at the same time, your non-concessional contributions are taken to be made first.

Applying to release your FHSS savings

When you're ready to receive your FHSS amounts, you need to apply to us for a FHSS determination and then a release.

When you can sign your contract

You can sign your contract to purchase or construct your home before or after you make a valid request to release your FHSS amounts but you must sign a contract within 12 months.

Receiving your FHSS amount

- After you have made a valid release request, we'll issue a release authority to your super fund(s) requesting they

send your FHSS release amounts to us.

- Signing a contract for a home and notifying us
- You have up to 12 months (or other period we allow) from the date you requested the release of FHSS amounts to sign a contract to purchase or construct a home. (You can sign a contract before you request release of FHSS amounts subject to certain restrictions.)
- The contract you enter into has to be for a residential property in Australia.

It cannot be for:

- Any premises not capable of being occupied as a residence
- A houseboat
- A motor home
- Vacant land – but the contract can be for construction of a home on vacant land, provided you have not purchased the vacant land before applying for a FHSS determination. The contract to construct the home must be entered into within 12 months (or other period allowed) from the date you requested a release.
- Your name must be on the title of the property you buy.
- You must genuinely intend to occupy the property as a home, and demonstrate this by:
- Occupying or intending to occupy the property as soon as practicable after purchase occupying or intending to occupy the property for at least 6 of the first 12 months from when it is practicable to occupy it.

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Locating land to love

By realestate.com.au

BUYING a block of land and building a new home is one of the great Australian dreams.

But selecting the best block of land to accommodate a new house isn't always as clear-cut as it might seem.

The right block for one person might not be the right block for someone else, so it's very important to be mindful of a few key considerations in the search for the perfect patch of land.

Here are the key things you need to know before you buy a block.

Get the right advice

The first question to ask when thinking about buying a block of land in a certain area is, 'what kind of house do you want to build?'

If you want a large family home with room for a study, a media room and an outdoor living space, you will require a larger block.

You should seek out a sales consultant who can talk you through the options available for different block sizes and what will best meet your individual needs.

Consider the fall

There's no point buying a block simply because it's cheap.

Sometimes a cheaper block might have a few secrets waiting for you.

If it has too much fall, or fill, you'll need to pay a lot more money in site costs in order to get the land level and ready to put a house on.



You should allow additional budget for costs including site preparation, demolition, council fees and traffic management expenses.

Check out your setback

It would be great if home builders could use every inch of their available land, but it's important to remember that you need to allow for setbacks from the edge of your property.

That said, garages are usually able to be built right up to the edge of a property, so these are all things to

consider when selecting land for the type of house you want.

Research your area

People who have kids should obviously look for schools nearby.

How far is it? How is the traffic? Is this road very busy?

Size matters

The dimensions of your block of land will dramatically affect the type of house that you're able to build.

If you have certain 'must-haves', you

might need to consider a slightly larger block.

Different house designs fit different blocks.

If you have a larger block, you will likely have more choices of houses that will fit on the block.

Before you buy a block it's important to understand what you want from your home and what will suit the land. Speak to a sales consultant to help ensure you're able to build the home you want, where you want to.

Elevate your bathroom space

By Gabriel Laidler-Burns

As we move through 2023, the choices to design your bathroom may seem endless.

From complex styles of tiling to bespoke vanity designs, the possibilities for creativity when creating your perfect bathroom are ever-evolving.

If you're looking for some inspiration, these are some of the trends coming through in 2023.

Terrazzo

Terrazzo is a composite material, poured in place or precast, which is used for floor and wall treatments.

It consists of chips of marble, quartz, granite, glass, or other suitable material, poured with a cementitious binder, polymeric, or a combination of both.

This design within bathrooms has become increasingly popular in recent years for its' fun, retro vibe and can be used as a unique way to elevate the space whilst giving it a chic pattern.

When using a neutral palette, Terrazzo can be a great way to make a statement without being too overpowering.

Bold Tile

Often fashioned from cement or



porcelain, this trending tile features striking patterns, saturated color, and bold personality.

Bold Tile can be used within your bathroom to create a focal point in the space and elevate it.

This design can add an element of playfulness and incorporate fun textures into your space.

Colourful Sinks

Colourful Sinks are a bold design choice where the bright colour of a non-traditional sink can maximize the design and improve your bathroom.

A great choice for smaller spaces as

they pop, creating a focal point.

Pairing the choice of a colourful sink with a bold paint for the walls can add even more drama to your bathroom.

High-Design Powder Rooms

Elevate your bathroom design by considering a High-Design Powder Room.

High Design typically refers to products that start to cross over into the art zone.

Typically they are low tech, made from high intrinsic value materials.

Having a small powder room

become the jewel of your home can be an impactful choice as a surprise and experience for your guests.

These smaller spaces are a great outlet for otherwise more reserved homeowners to take design risks and perhaps even deviate slightly from the overall concept of the home.

Bespoke Vanity Designs

A bespoke vanity unit could be described as a bathroom cabinet or under sink cabinet with a glamorous twist.

They're perfect for storing toiletries and bathroom essentials to declutter the space to add to its luxury and relaxed feel.

The vintage feel of bespoke vanities warm up the space, giving it an elegant and stylish look.

Natural Materials

Elevate your bathroom design by using natural materials like tumbled, brush, or honed stone, wood, and handmade tiles like zellige.

By incorporating natural and imperfect materials, a warm and inviting feel can be added to the bathroom to define the space and make a statement.

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Terazzo is making a comeback

TERRAZZO is one of the oldest and most versatile sustainable flooring options on the market.

It is made from a composite material poured in place or precast consisting of marble chips and/or other aggregates combined with a binder material, which is ground and polished to a beautiful finish.

Terazzo is incredibly durable and can be used outside or indoors as a flooring material and is great for high traffic areas such as hallways, patios and lobbies.

If cared for properly, a terrazzo floor can last well over 100 years.

Terazzo can be slippery but can be made non-slippery dependent on the type of sealer used once the surface is polished.

Derived from the Italian word terrace, the history of terrazzo goes back more than 500 years when Venetian construction workers began mixing scraps from the homes of the wealthy with clay to create inexpensive flooring for their own homes.

In fact, the history may go back a lot further with archaeologists finding evidence of terrazzo-like floors in Turkish ruins that date back 8,000 years.

Production became much easier in



the 1920s with the invention of electric grinders and other power tools according to the North Central Terrazzo Association.

The 1960s and 1970s saw the development of thinset or epoxy terrazzo.

This modern terrazzo provided more variety in colour, a different thickness

and was faster to install.

Today, terrazzo can consist of durable materials such as marble, quartz, granite, recycled glass, porcelain, concrete, and metal aggregates.

These materials are mixed with cement or epoxy and polished to produce a sustainable, smooth, and uniformly textured surface that will last

for years to come.

Watch out for terrazzo in bathroom splashbacks, bench tops and home wares, with the chips becoming larger and colours becoming bolder.

If your flooring has already been decided, use terrazzo pots for plants to decorate your home for that extra colour this year.



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Finding uses for waste water

By Brisbane City Council

USING grey water on your garden is a great way to keep it green and healthy.

By making certain you follow the correct procedures and making due diligence, the use of grey water can be a great way to keep your garden healthy and lush.

Firstly, it is important to gain your regional council's approval and research your land's suitability prior to purchasing or installing a grey water system.

You also must not store untreated grey water.

Grey water contains contaminants and bacteria that can multiply quickly and potentially cause a smell or a health risk.

Ensure that you divert untreated grey water to the sewerage system if it is not used immediately (eg. during heavy rain) and keep children and pets away - and especially avoid human contact where grey water has been used.

To use grey water in your garden, ensure the plants and turf varieties in your garden are grey water tolerant.

There are many plants and turf that like grey water such as Bird of Paradise, Melaluca, Dietes and Gardenia.



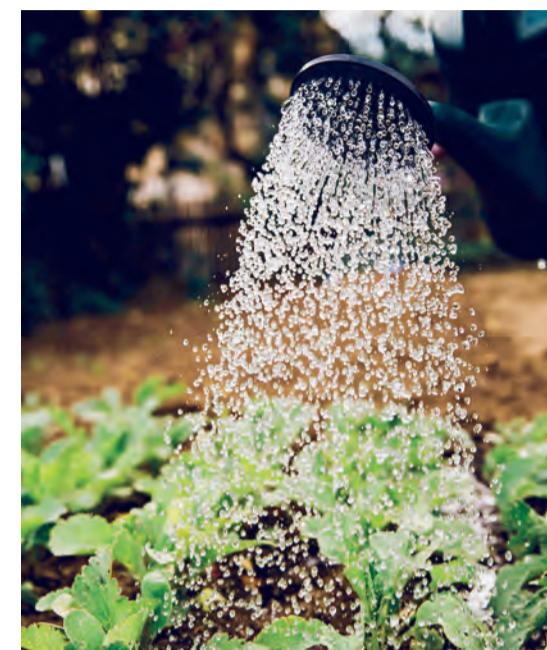
Plan to recycle your grey water when you build, to help conserve this most precious resource.

Choose laundry detergents that are designed for grey water re-use.

These will usually contain low nitrogen, phosphorous and salts and will be labelled appropriately.

Make certain that grey water does not flow into stormwater drains, or pollute watercourses or groundwater reserves.

To best look after your garden, only use grey water when your garden needs watering and try not to over-water as this may damage plants and soil structure and to further protect your garden do not allow grey water to come into contact with vegetables, herbs or edible plants, or allow it to splash onto them.



In addition to this, you mustn't allow grey water to pond, as this may cause offensive odours and potentially become a health risk.

Lastly, don't use grey water that has been used to wash heavily soiled items such as nappies or work uniforms and consider what is in your grey water before applying it to your yard.



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Robert and Natasha McIntosh with their three children, including their newborn.

Picture: Kimberley Anne



An aerial shot of Traquair Homes Willow Grove property on Gympie's Southside.

Newcomer debuts with a winner

A new building company, based in Widgee, are among several Gympie region winners from the Sunshine Coast Master Builders 2023 Housing and Construction Awards last Friday night.

Natasha and Robert McIntosh from Traquair Homes took out the prize for Individual Home up to \$350,000 for their first home construction in the Willow Grove estate on Southside.

Robert is a second generation builder, but this custom built home is the first project he undertook as a Master Builder and to have it recognised as an award winner, was something that took the family completely by surprise.

"We were a little bit shocked at first," said Natasha. "It's the first one we've done as Traquair."

"Robert has completed many projects as a Master Builders' member, as he was with them as a carpenter before obtaining his builders' licence," she said.

"However he has also been building new homes, alongside his brothers and father, for 16 years now."

"Willow Grove" was just the first build as our new company Traquair Homes and under his own licence.

"We went through the process, nomination, back in April. We hadn't received any news until last Friday night," she said.

The family have just welcomed their third child, so they weren't able to attend the awards ceremony, but that hasn't taken any of the sparkle off the achievement.

"Traquair Homes was created in March 2021 so we could start establishing the behind the scenes components of the company while Robert was still studying," said Natasha.

"After completing his Certificate IV in June 2021 he began the processes of applying for his builders licence which he received in November 2021."

"All that study was a big sacrifice, but all his hard work is paying off," Natasha said of Robert's journey to master builder.

Natasha is also very hands-on, helping customers design their own floorplans.

"We custom design every home and it's really rewarding working with our

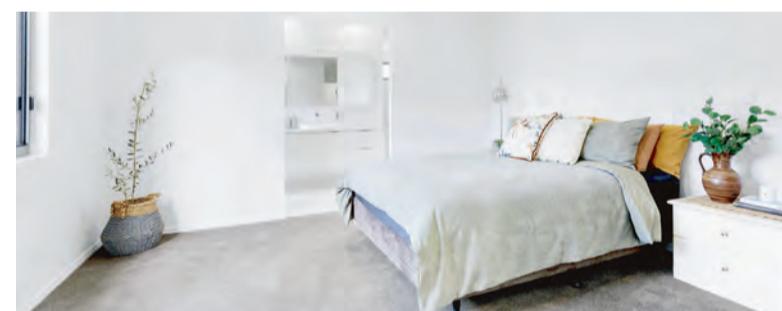


Widgee builders Traquair Homes, run by husband and wife team Robert and Natasha McIntosh, have taken out the 2023 SC Master Builders Awards for Individual Home under \$350K.

Picture: Elite Media Group



The light and bright kitchen.



The master suite.



Unique designs in the bathroom.



Smart and functional in the laundry.

clients to help them overcome restrictions and work within their budget to give them a unique home."

"It's great to see the hard work pay off - we've got a real passion for custom

designed new homes," she said.

"It's massive for the company and a credit to Robert and his craftsmanship."

This year's Sunshine Coast Master Builders 2023 Housing & Construction

Awards were held at Caloundra Events Centre on Friday, 18 August.

For more information on Traquair Homes, head to their website at www.traquairhomes.com.

Vital role of building certifiers

A Building Certifier is a qualified and accredited professional responsible for ensuring that construction projects comply with all relevant building codes, standards, and regulations.

Their primary role is to assess, approve, and inspect building work to ensure it meets the required safety and compliance standards.

Building certifiers review building plans and applications to assess compliance with local, state, and national construction codes and regulations.

They conduct inspections at various stages of construction to ensure that the work is being carried out in accordance with the approved plans and compliance standards.

These inspections help verify structural integrity, fire safety, accessibility, and other essential aspects.

Certifiers issue a certificate of occupancy or a final inspection certificate when construction is completed, and the building is deemed safe and compliant for occupancy.

They work with architects, builders, and developers to propose and assess alternative solutions to compliance issues, providing flexibility in meeting building standards.



Building certifiers make sure that homes are being constructed in a safe way, and that they meet with all the regulations and standards.

Choosing the right building certifier is an important step in building your home, because certification delays can push a build back, driving up costs.

Delays will often have a knock-on

effect meaning that availability of tradesmen could become an issue and blowing out expected occupancy dates.

In the long run, this will mean additional costs, whether it means

having to stay longer in rental accommodation than expected, or being unable to secure trades at the original quoted price due to limited availability.

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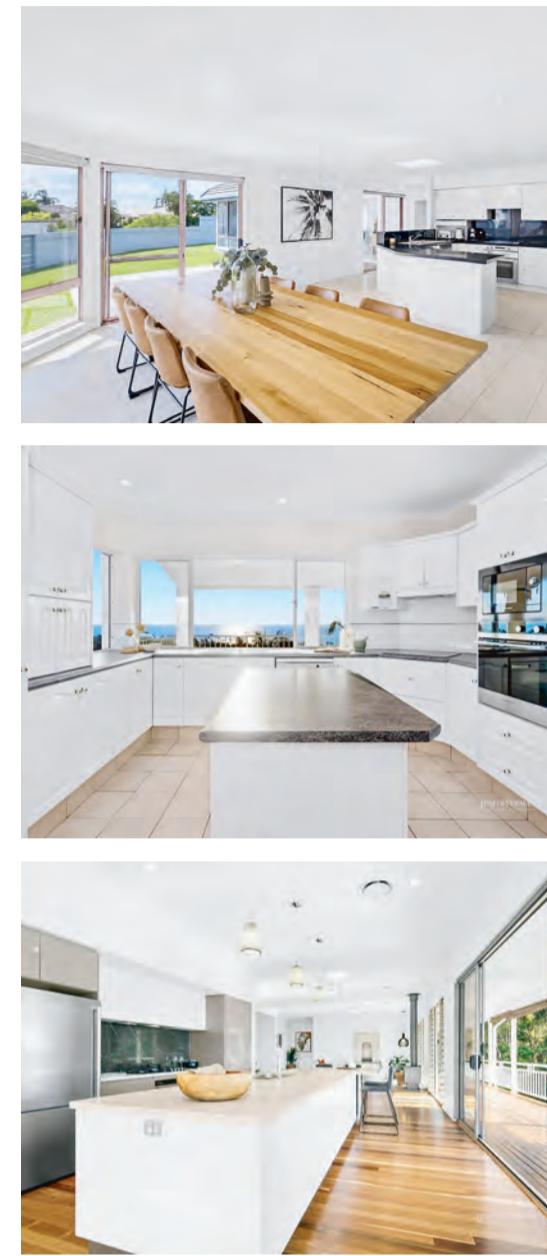
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Hungry for design?

THE kitchen is a make-it or break-it element in every home.

Having an enjoyable space for cooking, eating, socialising, managing your household and many other activities are essential to a home.

One of the fun parts of designing a home is working on the kitchen with designs constantly changing and evolving.

Knowing the choices you want to make to ensure you have the space and comfort in the style you want will allow you to cook, dine and entertain the way you want with ease.

Choose the kitchen that fits your lifestyle, fits your needs and everything in-between.

One way to achieve this, is by deciding on your layout.

Popular designs include the One Wall Kitchen, where functionality and efficiency are complimented by a clean aesthetic.

In this layout, One Wall is used for installing your cabinets, shelves and equipment while providing you the space you need.

Another option is the L-shaped kitchen which is a practical choice particularly for home-owners looking to make the most of a smaller space.

With the open layout of an L-shaped kitchen, it grants greater flexibility in placement of appliances and equipment but also provides great work flow.



Expanding on the design of the L-Shape, if you're in the market for a larger kitchen, this layout will give you all the space and efficiency you need.

By attaching counters in a U-shape within your space, you can install shelves and cabinets up to the ceiling to fulfil your kitchen storage needs.

If you're after more options for decoration within your kitchen space, a kitchen island may be for you.

Consisting of a workspace in the

middle of the kitchen, it provides an area where one can easily cook, cut, prep or eat, whilst still keeping options open for extra decoration such as lighting fixtures.

If your kitchen doesn't have the space for a kitchen island, then a peninsula kitchen layout may be the one for you.

Have your kitchen counter extend from the wall or cabinetry to give you that bit of extra space to prepare food, eat or carry out other tasks.

This layout can let you open up a smaller kitchen and allow better interaction between the kitchen and dining or living areas.

Position the countertop, sink, dining tables and chairs, fridge and equipment the way you need and the layout can go a long way in determining how functional a kitchen can be whilst still allowing you to have the design and style that suits you and your home.

Keep track of crucial contacts

WHEN you are building your own home there are a number of people you will be conversing with regularly.

Here's a place for you to store all your important phone numbers and email addresses.

1. Gympie Regional Council Planning Department

■ Phone: 1300 307 800
■ Email: council@gympie.qld.gov.au
■ Website: www.gympie.qld.gov.au/development

2. Conveyancer _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

3. Architect _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

4. Excavator _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

5. Builder _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____



6. Plumber _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

7. Telecommunications/IT _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

8. Concretor _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

9. Electrician _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

10. Tiler _____

■ Phone: _____

■ Email: _____

■ Website: _____

11. Carpet Layer _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

12. Painter/Decorator _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

13. Glazier _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

14. Roofer _____

■ Phone: _____
■ Email: _____
■ Website: _____

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■ Phone: _____
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16. _____

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Right people for the job

FINDING the right person to carry out your building project is essential.

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission make the process easier by providing examples of questions to ask and the best places to search for trade contractors, builders, plumbers and certifiers.

Why should you always use a licensed contractor?

When you're getting building work done it's important to use a licensed contractor, as they have the relevant qualifications and experience to complete your job.

With all the do-it-yourself programs around, people can be forgiven for believing anyone can deliver an award-winning home renovation in a weekend.

The reality is very different, as are the potential pitfalls of using someone unlicensed.

Using an unlicensed contractor increases the likelihood of defective and unfinished work.

It may void your access to Queensland Home Warranty Insurance, a scheme designed to assist home owners when these issues occur.

Licensed contractors have proven they have the skills and experience to



perform the work they are licensed for, so they are the obvious choice for your next construction project.

How to spot an unlicensed contractor?

One telltale sign of an unlicensed contractor is the lack of detail provided in their advertising.

They may also promote a low price for their services to help disguise this fact.

All licensed contractors in Queensland are required by law to provide specific details in any advertising for their services.

These details are:

- contractor's name - a contractor can be a person or a business. This must match the name the QBCC licence is registered under.
- the QBCC licence number - this is

unique to that contractor.

If you are after general maintenance work under \$3300, the contractor must state in their ad that they can only do work up to this value (this work generally does not require a QBCC licence).

So, if you see an ad without these details, there's a chance they may be unlicensed.

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Find a licensed contractor

The easiest way to find a licensed contractor is using the QBCC's free find a local contractor online search.

It allows you to select the type of work you want done, as well as a location and radius.

Your results will be a list of all contractors in that area, along with their licence class and contact details.

If you have a licensee's licence number or name you can look them up on the QBCC licensee register.

This function offers more information, including a complete licence history.

You may find this helpful to narrow down the licensed contractors you're considering.

Referrals

One of the most effective ways to find a contractor is to get referrals from family or friends.

You'll get insight into the quality of the builder's work, and the standard of their customer service.

Internet search

If you don't know anyone who has recently built, you can go online and search for contractors in your local area using your browser.

Advertisements

If you're looking through the ads in your local newspaper, a tip to make sure you get the right person for your job is to look at their specialty.

A contractor who is doing only one type of construction work is likely to have more experience and knowledge in that area.

Other options

Another way of finding a contractor is to take note of any building work going on in your neighbourhood.

There will always be a sign on



display, which should contain all the builder's contact details.

You can also contact industry associations, like the QMBA or HIA, as well as building material suppliers and hardware stores.

Find a licensed certifier

Generally, your builder will organise a building certifier to approve building work.

However, if you want to engage the certifier yourself, you can find one using the QBCC's free search function find a local contractor.

Select Building Certifier in the drop down menu and then enter your town or suburb for a current list of all licensed certifiers available in that location.

If you engage a building certifier, all relevant parties must be aware of the certifier's engagement, role and responsibilities.

You can also check a certifier's licence

details using the QCC licensee register.

How to check a QBCC licence

To find out more about a licensee you can use the QBCC licensee register.

They can give you information about the type of work the licensee does, as well as their history (any disciplinary action).

You can also call them on 139 333 with the contractor's name, business address and licence number.

Find a licensed plumber

It is important to ensure the right people with the right qualifications and practical experience are performing your plumbing work.

By engaging a licensed plumber and/or drainer you minimise unnecessary risks to your family's health and safety.

What licence should a plumber hold?

In some instances, it may be necessary for a plumber to hold both an occupational and contractor licence to carry out work, regardless of the value.

An occupational licence enables the person to physically carry out the work, a contractor licence allows the person to engage in a contract for the work.

To find out more about a licensee you can search the QBCC licensee register or search the occupational plumber or drainer register.

Head to www.qbcc.qld.gov.au for more information.

Head to www.qbcc.qld.gov.au for more information.

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