

# Innovative building system halves time of house construction

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**WATCH THE VIDEO**

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AN INNOVATIVE system which allows builders to put up a home in half the time will be put into action at a site on Shoal Point Rd later this month.

After groundworks are completed, a team of about five

builders will use the Strandwood integrated wall, floor and ceiling system to put up the house in just 10 days.

It will then be ready for the finishing process. The internal fit-out and external cladding

can take place at the same time.

Strandwood director Chris Busch said there were just five homes in Australia which used the system – the sixth would be built in Mackay.

"The process removes critical paths that typically delay the building process," Mr Busch said.

"In most instances, external finish is required before you do the internal finish ... but trades can work simultaneously on site without inhibiting each other's process.

"We believe it's 50% faster."

Mr Busch said the house would be built as a display home to show the market the efficiency in their building sys-

tems. Panels are solid wood (New Zealand radiata) and they carry a 50-year warranty.

The system will be put up by Brisbane-based builders Contrast Constructions, but all other internal and external finishing work will be undertaken by Mackay contractors.

"There has been interest shown from other builders in

Mackay, but the proof's in the pudding – they want to see it, and people are welcome to watch it go up," he said.

Building will start in the Eden on the Water estate at Lot 3, 146–150 Shoal Point Rd, on January 30. To find out more, watch the video at [dailymercury.com.au](http://dailymercury.com.au) or go to the website [strandwood.com.au](http://strandwood.com.au).

## CONSTRUCTION: NEW RESIDENTIAL APPROVALS IN MACKAY AND WHITSUNDAY UP 20%

# Region's builders grinning

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THERE is plenty for Mackay builders to smile about following the release of the latest building approvals figures across the state.

Master Builders Mackay and Whitsundays regional manager Malcolm Hull would even go so far as to say we are the best performer over the past 12 months.

The latest building approvals figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics give a patchy picture, with some centres down by

close to 10% over the year.

However, Mackay and Whitsunday has recorded a jump of 20.1% in new residential approvals from November 2011 to November 2012.

"We are consistently performing well, and we have performed the best in the state in the last 12 months," Mr Hull said. "Those (builders) that I am speaking to are happy, and we're very optimistic about 2013."

River City Homes Mackay projects estimator Mick McCreadie agreed.

"There's some pretty good feeling out there that it (building confidence) is going



**WORK FLOWING:** Builder Reece Tonga, at work for Brad Kirkpatrick Builders on a home in Ooralea yesterday, can rest assured the work will keep flowing with building approvals up by 20% in the past 12 months.

PHOTO: PETER HOLT

to come back," Mr McCreadie said.

"Obviously due to the downturn in the mines last year it has (resulted in) a bit of a downturn on the building industry with people not pro-

ceeding with building new homes.

"(But) we probably have 30 to 35 projects, that's all individual homes currently under construction. We still have a fair few to move on to."

Mr McCreadie said there was a lot of residential land becoming available in the next six to eight months.

"A lot is out in the North-east Beaches area, Richmond Hills and Shoal Point Waters

are coming online," Mr McCreadie said. "South of Mackay ... The Waters Ooralea is the main estate drawing interest and Glenrowan estate in Walkerston is attracting a bit of interest."