

# CASE STUDY ACCOMMODATION USQ STUDENT VILLAGE



**In the face of a challenging environment and a diverse clientele, the University of Southern Queensland Student Village's efforts to minimise water and power use have been a resounding success.**

## A DIVERSE CHALLENGE

The Toowoomba campus of the University of Southern Queensland incorporates a sizeable student village. The village takes the form of a budget apartment complex and offers shared accommodation across 144 multi-bedroom units and townhouses.

The village can house approximately 500 tenants, who come from many cultures across the world. Some already have a strong eco-ethic, while others come from places where sustainability is a lower priority.

## ECO ACTION

As with any accommodation provider, the student village found managing water and power use were the two pressing issues. A further complication is the village's location in Toowoomba: Australia's second-largest inland city is also one of its most drought-prone.

The village took a three-pronged approach: water, power and education.

1. As Toowoomba is Queensland's coldest city, water and water heating costs are high. Throughout its units and townhouses – some with up to five bedrooms – village management installed flow restrictors to limit water waste.
2. As students are quite social and have variable schedules, lighting was a large cost and susceptible to waste. The village countered by investing in energy-efficient lighting throughout its many buildings and facilities.
3. These measures were backed by a signage and education program. The goal was to let tenants know why these actions be been undertaken and how they could be a part of the sustainability push.

Combining 1, 2 and 3, the Student Village got some great results.

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND STUDENT VILLAGE

The student vilage has up to 500 tenants in 144 apartments and townhouses.

## ECOBIZ OBJECTIVE

- Decrease water and energy use

## ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

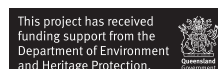
- Installation of energy-efficient lighting
- Installation of flow restrictors on plumbing
- Education campaign

## ANNUAL SAVINGS

- Overall energy use decreased 442,966 MJ or 7 per cent. That's the equivalent of eight Queensland homes.
- Greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 65 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e. This 6 per cent saving represents the average annual emissions of 16 cars.
- Potable water use decreased 12,034 kL, representing a 30 per cent saving – the same as five Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- In dollar terms, the efficiency savings total was \$72,769 per annum.

**THE ECOBIZ TEAM IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU.**

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