

# EAST COAST ECO DEVELOPMENT

My name is **Chris Simpson**, and I am a proud tradesman who turned project manager. I have a consultancy business (East Coast Eco Developments Pty Ltd) in Sandgate, where I have resided for over 10 years.

From my roots as a fitter & machinist to a second trade; a Cert IV in Building and subsequently becoming a licensed builder with QBCC, and Master Builders QLD, I understand how important it is to work hard, and to have a solutions-focused 'can-do' mentality.

While completing a Master of Project Management at QUT, I took a particular interest in Sustainable Subtropical Design and conducted considerable research in this area while at QUT.

After graduation, I went on to collaborate in the design of a flood proof residence – the house I would go on to construct and still live in, here in Sandgate.

During a recent flooding event (triggered by a dangerous combination of high rainfall and a King tide), water rose to half a metre around my Sandgate house. However, thanks to research and flood-proofing design, the event did not compromise the structural integrity of our home.

I have supervised a broad range of residential construction projects in low-lying coastal areas, such as Wynnum, Manly, Geebung, Brighton, and Sandgate. I am extremely worried about the complacent attitudes on display when politicians are being asked what they plan to do to protect coastal communities (like Sandgate) against rising sea-levels and severe weather events.

As a former builder, I am also concerned with the lack of apprenticeships and traineeships available for our youth within our community. It is particularly concerning that – as the “baby boomers” retire – their valuable skills and knowledge are also ‘retiring’ with them!

As a former workplace trainer and assessor on the Coolum Boardwalk project in 2001, I have witnessed first-hand how partnerships (e.g., between Federal, State and Local Government) can produce good outcomes for long-term unemployed youth, and for the community as a whole.

I value the work in our community of SANDBAG, Sailability, and Keep Sandgate Beautiful Association and I have volunteered with all in the past. I am gravely concerned at the lack of affordable housing and those sleeping rough in the Shorncliffe area. This issue is further exacerbated by recent high rain events and the potential risks to existing homes that have been inundated in the recent past.

As director of **East Coast Eco Developments Pty Ltd** – ABN 36 665 298 395 I would love to hear from you, and can be contacted via post (PO Box 44, Sandgate, QLD 4017), **phone (0461 454 977)** or **email ([contact@chrissimpsonqld.com.au](mailto:contact@chrissimpsonqld.com.au))**.

