One year on from the declaration of the Blackwater Urban Development Area (UDA), the final development scheme for Blackwater was approved by the State Government on 29 July 2011, signalling the next phase in the development process.

The development scheme for Blackwater sets out the future plans for the provision of more affordable and diverse housing availability through the increased supply of residential land to support the growth of the Blackwater community.

It also paves the way for the revitalisation of the Blackwater town centre, enhancing the centre as a civic hub for the community, and also including attractive streetscaping and parks.

The Bauman Way development will deliver a leading example of residential development, featuring more than 170 homes for up to 400 people. The diversity of housing styles will be complemented by quality streetscape design and two landscaped parks with a playground and community barbeque facilities. It will provide a diverse range of lot sizes and housing styles that will suit a variety of lifestyles and budgets.

Construction of Bauman Way is due to start in late 2011.

To find out more about Bauman Way and to register your interest please call 1300 138 164.

Aurora Close will be a vibrant new residential development consisting of 12 villas. Once complete, Aurora Close will include a mix of single or double storey options providing one, two and three bedroom homes.

Construction on Aurora Close is due to commence in late 2011, with all 12 villas due to be completed by mid 2012. This development will offer a new type of residential living in Blackwater that ranges in size and price.

For purchases between 1 August and 31 January 2012 buyers could be eligible for the Queensland $10,000 Building Boost Grant. Buyers should visit the Queensland Government website for more information www.qld.gov.au/boost.

To find out more about Aurora Close and to register your interest call 1300 138 164 or visit www.auroraclose.com.au.
Housing availability and diversity

The limited supply of residential land in Blackwater has impacted adversely on the affordability and availability of suitable housing options for the community. The ULDA is working with the Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRRC), State Government and landowners within Blackwater to address these local housing needs.

The ULDA is providing new housing solutions to Blackwater through:

- identifying and freeing up land for new residential development
- increasing density of housing and providing more flexibility in the development of different and smaller house types within residential areas
- realisation of large areas of undeveloped open space within the township for residential purposes
- providing funding of $1 million in 2011/12 for the development of rental accommodation for key workers

Increased housing supply

A range of vacant state land sites across the township have been identified for permanent residential development. These sites have the potential to provide approximately 400 dwellings accommodating over 1000 people. Land will be progressively released for development, guided by the development scheme. Community parks and other amenities will be included in the development of these areas.

Town centre revitalisation

The development scheme aims to reinforce the Blackwater town centre in Blain Street as the focus for retail and civic activities in the town and creating an attractive and vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike. The ULDA is investigating opportunities to revitalise Main Street including planning for mixed and flexible uses, linking the northern and southern sides of Blain Street through shared public spaces and street tree planting, and establishing on-street parking.

"The revitalisation of the Blackwater town centre as part of the work of the ULDA will be a great benefit to the Blackwater community. The enhancement of this important public area will reinforce the community’s resilience and identify Blackwater as a thriving town, and key contributor to our state and national wealth."

Cr Peter Maguire, Mayor Central Highlands Regional Council

The Central Highlands Regional Council is very pleased with the work being undertaken by the Urban Land Development Authority to increase the supply and affordability of housing in Blackwater, as well as helping to revitalise our township. Their willingness to engage with Council and the community has been a very positive part of the project and we look forward to doing it all again.”

Cr Peter Maguire, Mayor Central Highlands Regional Council