

Estate a boon to building sector

NEWLAND's \$23 million Riva Vue development has proved timely for local builders with a boost in new housing projects keeping Tweed building companies busy.

Following consistent sales at the Murwillumbah estate and a recent spur of construction activity, Riva Vue is among several Tweed Coast housing estates beginning to stimulate growth for the local building sector.

Walker Building Contractors sales and design manager John Bremner said Tweed developments were keeping the locally owned company in business.

With three houses built and one currently under construction in Riva Vue, Mr Bremner said the company was lucky to have such affordable housing developments on offer in the Tweed region.

"The designs of our homes at Riva Vue are made to not only suit the environment, but also to suit realistic budgets," he said.

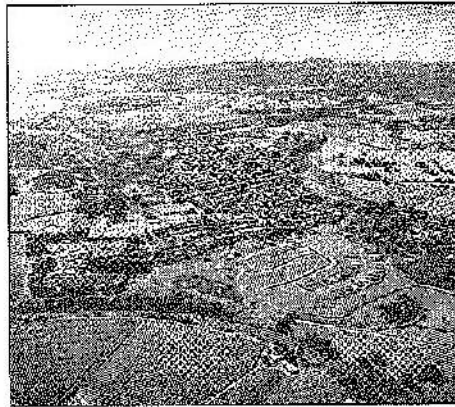
"Budgets are probably the most influential factor in the housing market at present.

"It's always the case of where people can build and what they can build for the budget available to them."

Riva Vue marketing agent Lance Cotterill, of North Estate Agents, said he hoped business would continue to improve for local builders due to government grants, but also due to the affordable land that would be coming available in the Tweed region.

"People are taking advantage of the housing bonuses that are currently being offered, but also the affordable, yet quality land that is available in the area," Mr Cotterill said.

"These significant incentives have had a positive impact throughout the Tweed region



as it has kept local builders, suppliers and tradespeople in business."

Mr Cotterill said while the current market condition had been slow to recover, there were still buyers looking for property and with affordable pricing and quality land on offer.

There are 54 houses built or nearing completion in the estate.

"The more it develops, the more new buyers will see what a great place Riva Vue is to live, which in turn means more business for the local building and construction industry," Mr Cotterill said.

Located off Barnby St, Murwillumbah, it covers 24.5ha within the heart of the Tweed Valley, surrounded by the picturesque backdrops of the Rous River and World Heritage-listed Mt Warning National Park.

Land prices start from \$165,000 and house and land packages from \$369,365. The estate features both sloping and flat blocks.