

CONTRACTOR Construction



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Steel piles provide green foundation

WHEN Accord Homes was contracted to build a series of green homes in Caboolture, Queensland, it needed a sustainable, energy efficient foundation and chose SFL's recyclable and reusable steel screw piles. Accord Homes was the primary contractor for the building construction, landscaping, driveways and final presentation of the green living homes project at Central Lakes Drive, Caboolture. The houses were designed by Brisbane architects TVS Partnership to be 5-star energy efficient to reduce ongoing costs, with sustainable features such as rainwater tanks, water efficient fixtures and fittings, solar hot water and low water use permaculture gardens.

Accord Homes needed a reliable product with proven green credentials. "We could have used waffle pods, but they could contain CFCs and so weren't environmentally friendly. SFL screw piles are made from recyclable steel," says Accord Homes joint owner and director Darryl Argo.

SFL installed a Slabpac top of slab foundation with secure screw piers, which is a suitable solution for builders working with variable ground conditions and needing the job done at a guaranteed fixed price. Engineered foundation and construction solutions specialist SFL Foundation Technology has developed a sustainable, energy efficient

foundation method – screw piling produced from 100 per cent recycled materials.

Put simply, screw piles are large screws, manufactured from high strength recycled steel in innovative designs to achieve a strong and enduring foundation. Screw piles can be installed using excavators fitted with a rotary drive unit and calibrated to ensure stringent quality adherence. During installation, the depth and torque resistance is measured and correlated to the safe working load of the pile.

Noosa Shire Council approached SFL to assist it with foundations for a footbridge located in the Noosa Heads National Park, an eco-sensitive environment. The Council was satisfied with the screw pile alternative SFL produced for the National Park Footbridge and opted to use the same solution for the Weyba Park Footbridge. The footbridge spans 2 km and was installed manually. The piles meet all the council's environmental requirements and can also be easily removed if necessary in the future. Council staff manufactured a drive tool to install the piles that required two workers.

The Slabmaster system is a patented SFL design, supplied and installed at a fixed price. The system incorporates a series of high-tensile screw piers wound into the ground to create a platform to support a ground slab.