



With clever modular solutions, beloved beach shacks may be back

Building in parts reduces the pain

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PRE-MADE Donovan Hill-designed homes from a factory at Yatala are the latest alternative to the affordable housing dilemma.

Priced at \$210,000 plus installation for a three-bedroom house, the airy designs are not the cheapest option on the market.

But their versatility means buyers can start small and add modules as their means allow.

A one-bedroom module starts at \$105,000 plus about \$30,000 to \$50,000 in council application, delivery and installation fees.

Developer Toby Lewis said the designs were suited to land within existing subdivisions and he expected to see even more

flexibility in covenants from land developers.

"The houses would already fit in with covenants of many Stockland estates," Mr Lewis said.

Work was under way on designs which would also be suited to in-fill style development in character areas such as Spring Hill.

"It's unlike other pre-made home products, meeting an unmet demand for affordable homes designed by leading Australian architects," Mr Lewis said.

Commercial builder Hutchinsons is assembling the homes at the Yatala factory and the constructions are expected to be shipped to areas where

building costs — or even finding a builder — may be problematic.

"We've talking to some people at Agnes Water who just can't find a builder up there," Mr Lewis said.

The Yatala factory has the capacity to finish up to 50 houses a week.

As well as the Donovan Hill designs, architects Owen and Vowkes are also working on designs for the houses.

Donovan Hill's co-founder, Brian Donovan, said his company's range had several modules that could be added to create extra family rooms, bedrooms, carports, home office or storage.

"The ability to mix, match and add allows the owners to

modify the composition to suit their lifestyle," Mr Donovan said.

The first display house was launched at Stradbroke Island this week, with another planned for Casuarina Beach in northern New South Wales.

Mr Lewis said there had been strong interest in the Happy Haus concept from Victoria and Perth.

"With the pre-made home, installation onsite can be completed in a few days.

"The modular format of our home designs makes them an extremely adaptable and flexible housing solutions, ideal for coastal, rural and remote locations." Mr Lewis said.



ON display . . . the first Happy Haus to go on display is on North Stradbroke Island, above, according to developer Tony Lewis, left.