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GAMECHANGER TECHNOLOGY

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Build times are set to reduce thanks to a pioneering system, writes Sophie Foster

A listed developer expects to shake off the construction crisis with gamechanging new tech that can see homes built in as little as two months from next year, with eight-star energy efficiency ratings.

Phil Kearns, chief executive of one of the most recognised housing names in the country AV Jennings, said the technological move was a “gamechanger”.

The former Wallabies rugby union captain turned corporate boss said their joint venture with

tech innovator Pro9 would see its energy-efficient walling system built in Australia from around March next year.

The system was expected to cut down build times to around a fifth of current wait times, according to Mr Kearns, with the product helping deliver one of the most energy-efficient homes in the country out of Brisbane already – at a near-perfect 9.4 NaTHERS (Nationwide Housing Energy Rating Scheme).

“For us, certainly in the short

term, we’ll still do some traditional construction methods,” Mr Kearns said.

“Potentially over time, we could do 100 per cent of our homes under this format.

“So far, the results that we’ve had across Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne have been exceptional.

“We had energy ratings in Melbourne of 8.2 and above. In Sydney, our energy ratings were 8.5 and above, and in Brisbane, it was 9.4.”

He said the AV Jennings Pro9 move would exceed the construction code’s minimum

seven-star requirement that comes into force in October.

“The methodology around building a house in Australia really hasn’t changed for decades. Lots of companies have looked at either prefabricated or modular housing, and we were no different, looking for about 14 to 15 years until we found this technology company called Pro9 four years ago,” Mr Kearns said.

“We’ve combined our knowledge on how to build with their knowledge and technological innovation around the materials to bring together a really great housing solution, and one of the by-products of looking at the whole prefab area was the fact that the materials used and the way the house is put together creates a very sustainable energy-efficient result.

“So we’re really thrilled that we’ve been able to gain that energy efficiency, sustainability and speed of construction all in one go.”

The cost of using the new walling tech in homes has not been revealed as yet, but Mr Kearns

expected the manufacturing facility to initially produce enough material for more than 1000 homes a year on a single-shift basis.

“This is just the start of what we plan to roll out into the future,” Mr Kearns said.

Gail Alvarez sold a 3.2ha property on the Gold Coast, drawn to the energy efficiency gains in her new four-bedroom AV Jennings home at Riverton, Jimboomba which is part of the minimum eight-

star energy efficiency rated Stellar Collection.

“To me, sustainable homes are about building smarter so we can cut down on the amount of power we consume,” she said. “Reduced power bills are the icing on the cake for me with my new home.”

AV Jennings Stellar Collection has the Pro9 walling system in its homes, at least two stars above the national six-star rating, and one star higher than will be required as part of building code changes.



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Gail Alvarez (far left) was drawn to the energy efficiency gains in her new four-bedroom home at Riverton, Jimboomba (below), which is part of the Stellar Collection by AV Jennings, where Phil Kearns (left) is chief executive



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