



environment

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Green homes for reef pilots

MARINE pilots of treacherous Cape York seas are doubling the size of their away-from-home digs in an eco-friendly way.

The Australian Reef Pilots house on Yorke Island – used by pilots who navigate large ships through the difficult Great Barrier Reef and Torres Straits channels – is being expanded using a cladding system patented by Sunshine Coast firm Ecohousing.

High-density polyurethane was packed inside fibre cement sheeting, providing extremely high-impact resistance, Ecohousing principal Tony Bergqvist said.

And that was of great interest to the Aus-

tralian Reef Pilots, general manager Alan Maffina said, because of the cyclone rating and insulation properties.

“Yorke Island is very exposed in the cyclone season and this system gives us peace of mind,” Mr Maffina said.

“We’ll also be using the Ecohousing system for a seven bedroom accommodation building at our pilot station on Thursday Island,” he said.

The accommodation increase was triggered by new laws which made pilots compulsory for ships travelling in the Torres Strait, Mr Maffina said.