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# Now you can test drive a house

## SCOTT SAWYER

POTENTIAL purchasers are lining up for a chance to try before they buy before making their most significant investment.

Home "test drives" are being offered at Economic Development Queensland's The Village development at Oonoonba.

A partnership with Airbnb, which can be used to reserve a stay, the program offers potential buyers the chance to book in a one or two-night stint in the display home, to help them make up their minds about whether or not to buy in the

estate. The Village sales professional Rachel Forster said Airbnb had advised them that the initiative was a world first.

The test drives were launched on April 24 and the

first three groups, two singles and a couple, have booked in to stay over the next three weekends.

The Village development started in 2011 and is about half finished now.

Ms Forster said there were about 500 lots still to be developed and she said it had taken time to make the test drive a reality.

"It's taken a couple of years to get to this stage," she said.

If successful she expected it to be rolled out across the housing industry as a new way to bring buyers in and let them experience the community they were considering moving into.

Ms Forster said it would also prove useful, particularly with smaller blocks, in demonstrating how people could live there.

She said local items had been used to decorate the home and

there were two bikes available for "test drivers" to ride around the village.

A welcome picnic blanket and even the guests' favourite biscuits were provided, in a bid to make the test drive feel as much like home as possible.



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**INNOVATIVE:** The Village sales professional Rachel Forster says the Airbnb deal is a world first.  
Picture: EVAN MORGAN