

Eight Mile Plains QUEENSLAND

C-Bus Energy Management System

*Case Study*⁷



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Home automation in Queensland's regional home



The Queensland building industry leads Australia in creating some of Australia's most beautiful and innovative homes. Many of them are now beginning to feature home automation systems that integrate a home's appliances and electrical services.

Clipsal has already made great inroads into this technology with its C-Bus Energy Management System and is now poised to do the same with its new Clipsal HomeMinder Home Automation System.

Eight Mile Plains Queensland

The Eight Mile Plains home features both Clipsal C-Bus and HomeMinder and was awarded the QMBA Brisbane regional home of the year as well as best home for electrical innovation and excellence.



A Totally Automated Home

Alan Bloore had very specific goals for his Southside dream home in Eight Mile Plains. Having lived a great deal of his life in America, he was familiar with the growing trend towards home automation systems and the energy efficiency and lifestyle enhancements they provide.

Alan requested preset lighting, garden watering and security “scenarios” that could be controlled by access codes or movement sensors and even by telephone from any destination in the world. After consultation with contractors Stephen and Barry Cooper, Clipsal C-Bus and HomeMinder were specified to provide the exact level of lighting control and integration the home required.

Clipsal C-Bus and HomeMinder makes an Intelligent Home

The backbone of the wiring for the home’s lighting is provided by Clipsal C-Bus. Clipsal C-Bus utilises Unshielded Twisted Pair Cable (or telephone wire) to link devices in the home such as switches, dimmers, motion detectors, and temperature sensors to Clipsal HomeMinder. Clipsal HomeMinder is the system controller which programs how and when everything operates.

When combined, Clipsal C-Bus and HomeMinder technology provides limitless options for the home’s lighting and security system that simply could not be achieved with conventional systems.

Installing the System

As with all projects, the quality of the installation is a critical factor with home automation systems.



5034N Key Input Unit used in installation.



5027 Clipsal HomeMinder keypad. Installed in the kitchen, garage and main bedroom.

There were no second chances with the wiring of this Tuscan style double storey home. The ground floor ceiling space is inaccessible as the majority of the roof is flat. Therefore, any future wiring is limited.

For ease of wiring, C-Bus switching modules were located in four different locations inside the ceiling. These modules were then concealed with removable panels in order to ensure that the installation would always remain fully accessible.

The C-Bus PC interface is located in the kitchen pantry while the Clipsal HomeMinder controller is located in the home office area, again to enable easy access.

C-Bus PC interface is located in pantry for easy access.



Lighting Modes linked to Security



Perhaps Clipsal HomeMinder's greatest attribute in this home is the transformation of a conventional home alarm into a formidable home defence system, capable of performing functions that would be very difficult to achieve using conventional mains wiring.

When Alan arrives, leaves or is at home he has a choice of three security scenarios that are activated by simply keying in the relevant access code to one of his Clipsal HomeMinder keypads. These are located in the garage, kitchen and main bedroom.

1. Away mode: When the away mode is activated, the home's security is on full alarm status and external and internal lighting, as pre-programmed (Lighting Mode No. 2) is switched on between sunset and sunrise.

2. Home mode: This mode is usually set when the home is occupied and is activated on returning to the home. The alarm will not sound, however outdoor sensors operate some external lights and another lighting mode (Lighting Mode No. 3) is activated turning lights on between sunset and sunrise to enable Alan to move about his home without having to manually switch lights on or off. Indoor sensors automatically control lights in areas of the house which are in the mode.

3. Sleep mode: Every night, when Alan goes to bed, a third mode of lighting (Lighting Mode No. 4) is activated, providing low level security lighting externally and some internal lights. Security is provided by activating all the downstairs security sensors and if movement is detected, will only sound the external siren and also activate the strobe.

The external lights operate only between sunset and sunrise. The sunset and sunrise times are automatically adjusted by Clipsal HomeMinder during the year. Further enhancing the home's security options is the ability to coordinate the system to Alan's telephone. The home will call him if disturbed or he can phone in to check the status of the alarm.

All the modes were simply programmed into Clipsal HomeMinder by the installer, Stephen Cooper when commissioning the system. If it is necessary to change any of the modes, these are once again simply keyed in by computer.

Automated for Efficiency

Alan can never leave an external light on indefinitely. Any external light that has been left on inadvertently, automatically switches off by sunrise due to the Clipsal HomeMinder programming, via the sunset/sunrise commands. This simply resets all external lights to "off" at sunrise.

In the garden, all sprinklers are activated by a programmed scenario which utilises the C-Bus relays, input from the rain sensor and an external power supply to provide a fully automated home sprinkler system.

Subsequent changes to the System

The beauty of Clipsal HomeMinder and C-Bus is that the systems allow alterations and additions to be made with ease, only requiring a minimum of wiring.

One area of the home that required some modification were the sensor operated lights in the stairwell. Initially, the dichroic globes, set within the wall were "too bright" for the client. The only necessary modification to the globes was to reprogram the software to operate them at an acceptable level of brightness. This was completed in less than two hours.



Entrance keypad enables choice of three security scenarios.



The Benefits of C-Bus Control

Features	Benefits
Lighting integrated with security	Comprehensive security
Phone access to home	Control within and away from home
C-Bus electronics cabinet located in kitchen pantry, HomeMinder control panel located in study	Easy access
Easy to program	Alterations & additions easily achieved

Installation Data

Project	Alan Bloore's residence, Eight Mile Plains, QLD
Installer	Stephen Cooper t/a Barry Cooper Electrical Contractor
Home Automation System	\$10,000+
Total House Cost	\$250,000+

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