

RURAL NEWS

Rural Industries Plan Implementation



Workshops Funding to Support Local Businesses

The federally funded Business Enterprise Centre Ipswich Region (BECIR) services the Ipswich Region and Lockyer Valley, providing informative and supportive workshops for small businesses.

It has recently been awarded a \$100,000 grant to provide advisory services to primary producers, tourism operators and local small businesses throughout the area affected by the January floods, both directly and indirectly.

The BECIR is conducting a range of free and low cost workshops to assist businesses in recovery and moving forward.

BECIR Business Advisor Clive Pearce said "The BECIR has played an active role in supporting our business community since the flood deluge in January of this year. We have already conducted

over 150 workshops with an audience in excess of 1500 attendees. This additional funding from the federal government will enable us to continue to provide vital services to businesses throughout the region."

Along with business advising and mentoring, workshops will be conducted in Business Planning and Diagnostics; Lease Guidance and Legal and Accounting support; together with one on one sessions regarding all business matters. These workshops cover various aspects on how business owners can improve and/or expand their business operations. These workshops are being held in various centres, including Ipswich CBD, Ipswich industrial areas, Lockyer Valley, Bundamba, Rosewood and Goodna.

For further information contact the BECIR on (07) 3282 7999 or visit www.becir.com.au.



Update

Welcome to Rural News for the implementation of the Rural Industries Plan. The information gathered from nearly 100 participants at the forum held in June 2010 was collated and sent out for further reflection and feedback.

This newsletter will update some of the identified topics raised and where possible link them to information, initiatives, plans and/or websites.



Do You Want to be Involved?

We welcome the continued involvement of residents from our rural community and it's not too late to join the process.

To register your interest to attend the next Rural Industries Plan community session, please contact the Office of Economic Development on (07) 3810 6938.



Message from Mayor Paul Pisasale and Cr David Pahlke




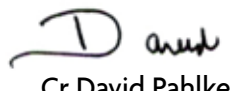
In our Economic Development Plan, Ipswich is described as a City of centres. It identifies the various urban centres and, importantly, the regional activity centres servicing our rural areas.

The Rural Plan is one of the initiatives of the Economic Development Plan. It is based on a vision maximising the usage and benefits of our high quality agricultural land with positive spin-offs for employment and economic development.

Thanks to those of you who attended our Rural Industries Community Forum in June 2010 at Rosewood High School. Almost 100 people attended the Forum and contributed thoughts and ideas that were captured to help guide the process. A summary of the ideas was produced and circulated for comment and we are continuing to make progress towards the implementation of the Rural Plan.

We urge you to support the ongoing process to implement the Rural Plan.


Mayor Paul Pisasale
City of Ipswich


Cr David Pahlke
Division 10

The Vision Revisited

It is worth revisiting the Vision for the Rural Industries Plan as a lens to view the comments. The Rural Industries Plan Vision is to:

Support the development of a vibrant, high-value rural industries sector in Ipswich City that adds diversity to the economy, generates tourism and lifestyle benefits and protects and retains good quality agricultural land in the city.

Agricultural Census

The 2011 Agricultural Census was recently undertaken and for the first time it could be completed online. The closing date was 14 July, or two weeks after receiving the paper questionnaire.

In due course some up-to-date statistics will be available at the regional level. The Agricultural Census is conducted every five years and is the second largest collection undertaken in Australia after the Census of Population and Housing, also conducted five-yearly.



Rural Subdivisions and Transferring Titles

In the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031, the State Government's planning regulatory provisions, restricts any further subdivision of land in the 'Regional Landscape' and 'Rural Production' areas. Rural subdivision of lots less than 100 hectares is contrary to these State planning provisions and is restricted. The Ipswich Planning Scheme provisions reflect the State's provisions, with subdivision generally limited to the consolidation of existing lots, boundary realignments, farm restructuring and the like in rural areas. New rural living

lots may be considered where there is no net increase in the number of lots in the rural locality, such as the transfer of dwelling entitlements.

Guidance on the creation of new rural living lots through the transfer of dwelling entitlements can be found in *Implementation Guideline No. 11 - New Rural Living Lots Created as a Result of "Transferable Dwelling Entitlements"*. This document is available from Ipswich City Council's PD Online at www.ipswich.qld.gov.au.

Ebenezer Regional Industrial Area

The State Government's Regional Plan promotes the Western Corridor, stretching from Rocklea in Brisbane through to Ebenezer/Willowbank in Ipswich, as the location of much of the region's future employment growth. The government identified a need for more industrial land in the Corridor, especially for industries requiring large lots and separation from urban areas.

Ebenezer, a 5,800 HA site south of Willowbank, is identified as a regional development area to support this future industrial development.

According to the State Government, "The Ebenezer regional industrial area is being planned to accommodate a range of low, medium and high impact industries such as manufacturing and logistics businesses as well as difficult to locate and large footprint industries. There are opportunities within the area for commercial, retail, administration and community uses that support industrial activities and provide key services for workers".

A draft version of the planning framework was expected to be released publicly in mid-2011, however at the time of publication was not yet available.

The area is not being planned to accommodate noxious, offensive, or hazardous industrial land uses.

Mining

Mining has been in the news since the Forum, with a significant amount of activity currently being undertaken in Ipswich City boundaries. Satellite imagery of Ipswich shows the extent and history of open cut mining.

Extensive areas of the Ipswich region are under Mineral and Coal Exploration Licenses or Leases and it has significant identified resource areas. Individuals can generate a map by accessing State Government Resource and Tenure Maps. Land in Queensland that is subject to or available for applications for coal, mineral and petroleum exploration, development and production titles, may be identified graphically by using the DEEDI web-based **Interactive Resource and Tenure Maps (IRTM)** system available at <http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/geoscience/interactive-resource-tenure-maps.htm>



IPSWICH ENVIROPLAN

Core Components

Ipswich Enviroplan is delivered through four Core Components: Securement, Management, Development, Education and Awareness. Each Component contains a number of activities and programs which enable Council and the community to deliver best environmental practice on public and private land.

Swamp Tea-Tree and Biodiversity

SEQ Catchments is working with local councils to conserve what little remnants of Swamp Tea-tree communities are left after historical clearing in the Bremer catchment and wider SEQ. It also collaborates on the *Land for Wildlife* program, which has seen more than 100 landholders in the Bremer catchment adopt management practices that protect and enhance wildlife habitat and add to the City's biodiversity. Across SEQ more than 2,600 properties are registered, representing close to 50,000 hectares.



Environment and Conservation

In March 2010, Council endorsed a budget commitment of \$10 million over two years for the Enviroplan Acquisition Program, to expand on the values of Ipswich Enviroplan conservation estates.

In the first year of the program, eight (8) new properties totalling 613 hectares were purchased in the rural areas of the City. Five adjoining properties in Grandchester were combined to form a 296 hectare conservation estate, currently referred to as Grandchester Reserve.

One property of 259 hectares, located north of Grandchester, is currently referred to as the Woolshed Reserve. The remaining two properties adjoin the existing Kholo Enviroplan (Cameron's Scrub) reserve, protecting an additional 58 hectares of critical ever-green dry vine forest in the estate. Bushland Management and Fire Management Plans are currently being developed for each of the new estates.

Council's conservation estates now cover an area in excess of 5,300 hectares. This area will increase with the implementation of the 2011/12 Enviroplan acquisition program.

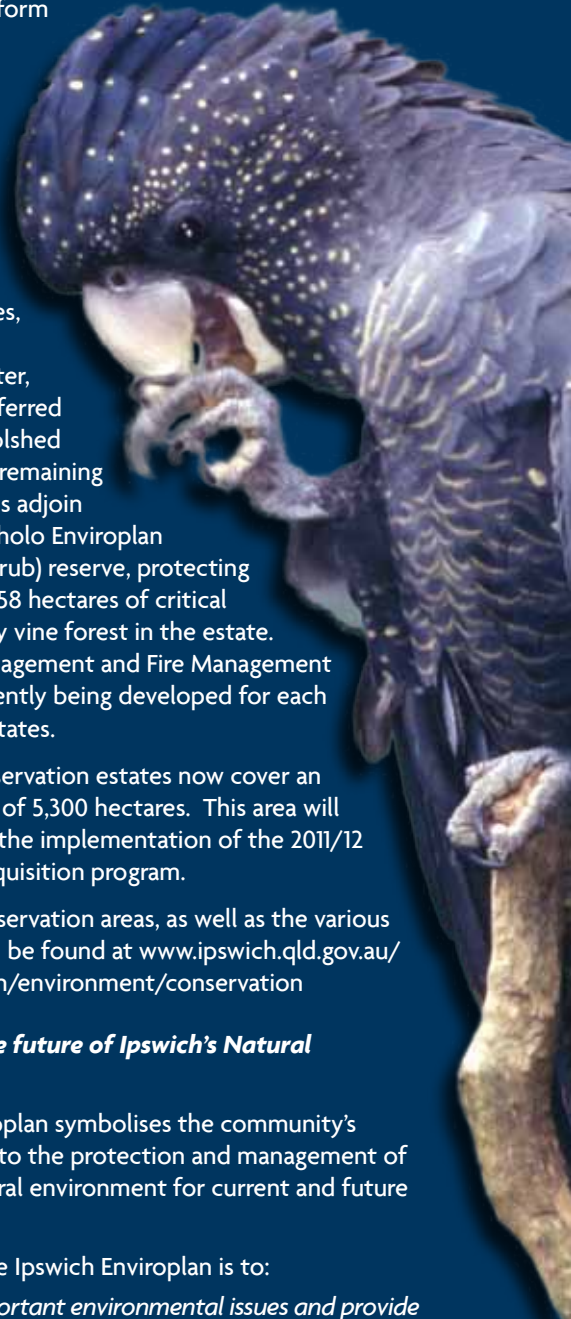
A map of conservation areas, as well as the various initiatives, can be found at www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about_ipswich/environment/conservation

A plan for the future of Ipswich's Natural Environment

Ipswich Enviroplan symbolises the community's commitment to the protection and management of Ipswich's natural environment for current and future generations.

The aim of the Ipswich Enviroplan is to:

"Promote important environmental issues and provide innovative and effective programs for the safe keeping and management of this City's natural resources."



Koalas Benefit from Conservation Land

The second round of funding for the Koala Nature Refuges Program will be opening soon.

Landholders can find out more from www.derm.qld.gov.au.

Two of these refuges are in Ipswich City, at Grandchester and Purga.



Environmental Defenders Organisation Qld

The Environmental Defenders Organisation is a network of non-profit community legal centres that work on environmental law matters of public interest for individuals and communities.

It is currently representing clients “who are suffering from a lack of fairness, accountability and transparency in Queensland judicial and administrative processes for assessment of proposed coal mines and coal seam gas (‘CSG’) projects.” It recently wrote to the Premier of Queensland expressing its concerns:

“This is due to the vast disparity of resources, given that the mining and gas industries can afford huge networks of paid lawyers and communication staff to promote approval of their projects, whereas individuals and communities affected by those projects can rarely afford a single paid lawyer. It is also due to the major impacts these projects have on communities and the natural environment, and the number of mining and gas proposals. There are at least 22 major coal mines, plus CSG projects, under application in Queensland right now.”

It should be noted that CSG Exploration Permits are not specifically named – they appear under “Petroleum” permits.

A fact sheet on taking action with regard to CSG projects can be found at:

www.edo.org.au/edoqld/edoqld/new/10.08CoalSeamGasCommunityRights&EPAAct1994.pdf

Recent Flood Impacts on Natural Areas

The Autumn Edition of ICC’s *Environment Matters* focuses on the impacts of the flood events on the natural environment and wildlife. Although events of this magnitude are hard to prepare for, they highlight the need to adopt the best Natural Resource Management practices related to vegetation and waterways.

“Within the Ipswich City boundary, most natural riparian areas received some form of erosion, with many sites experiencing quite severe bank slumping, scouring and wholesale landscape change. This is compounded by the loss of many old growth trees and the fauna habitat and bank stabilisation they provided. Although numerous riparian areas have been perpetually altered, river, creek and gully flooding is a natural process, with flow patterns in constant flux, changing with each environmental event. The challenge we face is how to balance human wants with environmental eventualities.”



Image courtesy AAP/Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre

Tourism

Recent preliminary research for the Local Government Area of Ipswich shows that in the 2010 calendar year we welcomed 1,065,000 domestic and international visitors. This number shows a significant increase on the 2007 statistic which was 873,000 domestic and international visitors. In 2007 statistics showed that the visitor/tourism spend contribution to our local economy was \$100,000,000 per annum, whereas for 2010 this had increased to \$122,000,000.

The tourism spend contribution to our local economy includes not only the traditional business segments of accommodation, tours and attractions but also the broader business sectors of retail, dining, newsagents, service stations, supermarkets etc. *Tourism is everybody's business!*

The implication of this statement is that friendly and good customer service is important in all facets of business and not just during the tourism experience.



The Amazing Time Machines

A new brochure on Ipswich's 'Amazing Time Machines' is being launched to promote the glory days of rail travel in the City. Visitors can experience historic steam-train travel at four sites throughout the City: Ipswich, Rosewood, Grandchester and Swanbank. Experiencing travel on one of the historic trains and visiting the stations and sites is like stepping back into the past. The trains and exhibits at these locations give an appreciation of the 150 years of railway in Queensland and the vital role of Ipswich in that history. The brochure contains full details of experiences available at The Workshops Rail Museum, Rosewood Railway Museum, Grandchester Model Steam Railway and the Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway. These Amazing Time Machine locations offer something for the whole family, from the scale model steam-trains of Grandchester to Australia's oldest working steam locomotive at The Workshops Rail Museum.



Wine Industry

The wine industry on the western edge of the Scenic Rim and Ipswich is already well established. Incorporating nine wineries including three from the Ipswich region (Warrego Wines, Woodlands of Marburg and Ironbark Ridge Winery) the Scenic Rim Wine Association has developed an excellent website www.scenicrimwines.com.au/

In addition Pterodactyl Helicopters, a reasonably new operator in the Ipswich tourism industry, has developed a range of short and long winery tours by helicopter and packages can include overnight stays in the region.

For more information visit
www.pterodactylhelicopters.com.au



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IPSWICH TOURISM
OPERATORS NETWORK

Since 1981 the Ipswich City Council has worked in partnership with local tourism operators via the Ipswich Visitors and Tourism Association Ltd (IVTA) and more recently with the Ipswich Tourism Advisory Group (ITAG).

Council's Tourism Branch acknowledged the need for a more direct channel of communication and active engagement with stakeholders in the tourism industry.

Established in July 2011, the intent of the Ipswich Tourism Operators Network (ITON) is to provide a forum through which all eligible tourism operators, in Ipswich and the surrounding regional council areas of Lockyer Valley, Somerset, Scenic Rim, Logan and Brisbane, can provide feedback and participate in Council's tourism development and destination marketing activities.

Cr David Pahlke is Chairperson of this network.

For more information about ITON including eligibility criteria, visit www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about_ipswich/ipswich_tourism

Protection of Good Quality Agricultural Land

The Queensland Government has stated its commitment to the protection of Queensland's best cropping land, taking steps to ensure that this strategic and finite resource is conserved and managed for the long term benefit of all Queenslanders, and is in the process of developing a policy and legislative framework for strategic cropping land.

According to its Progress Update - June 2011, Strategic Cropping Land (SCL) policy is a key priority of the Queensland Government and in response to requests for more time to provide feedback on the Regulatory Assessment Statement (RAS), the closing date for submissions has been extended.

As of 31 May 2011 resource development projects, such as mining, that are not well advanced in the approvals process, will be subject to the full effect of the legislation to be introduced later this year. The SCL policy includes plans to introduce new legislation in late 2011. Developments such as open cut mining, coal seam gas, underground coal gasification,



long-wall/underground mining, urban uses and permanent forest plantations would all be assessed under the new legislation.

Updates on the progress of the government's SCL policy are available by email scenquiries@derm.qld.gov.au or by calling 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Regional Collaboration

Visitors and tourists are not aware of local government boundaries when they travel and Council's Tourism Branch supports and works to develop regional partnerships with neighbouring Local Government Areas including Brisbane, Lockyer Valley, Somerset Region and Scenic Rim.

An example of this regional collaboration is the Cobb & Co Tourist Drive brochure which was developed in partnership with Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Toowoomba Regional Council.

Copies are available from the Ipswich Visitor Information Centre.



Say Cheese

Also under discussion at the forum was possible diversification into a new market such as the niche cheese industry which can be complementary to the wine industry tourism.

Boutique cheeses can also open up opportunities for small farmers with other livestock such as goats and sheep and provide new markets for specialist and online retailers.

Cheesemaking workshops are available through an organisation simply called 'Cheesemaking'. One of their recent newsletters identified new trends in gourmet cheese, pointing out that the appreciation of good cheese is spreading to supermarkets, and is a growing demand that niche manufacturers can exploit.



Cheesemaking's July 2011 course, where participants learned to make a wide variety of cheese types, was booked out.

Anyone interested in boutique cheese is encouraged to visit their website for their newsletter and details of other courses in other centres at www.cheesemaking.com.au.

Other ideas for farm diversification can be found at www.rirdc.gov.au

Cunningham Highway - Amberley Intersection

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is currently undertaking a planning study to determine the configuration, footprint, cost and feasibility of upgrading the Cunningham Highway/Ipswich - Rosewood Road intersection to a grade-separate facility, at a cost in the order of \$100 million.

It is anticipated a finalised plan will be presented to the community in late 2011, however it must be noted that this project is currently unfunded.

\$470 Million for Roads

During her recent visit to Ipswich, Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced a \$470 million road funding package to repair flood-damaged roads across Ipswich and the Lockyer Valley, creating 1400 jobs. The roads to be upgraded in Ipswich are:

- Rosewood-Laidley Rd
- Ipswich-Boonah Rd
- Ipswich-Rosewood Rd
- Rosewood-Warrill View Rd
- Haigslea-Amberley Rd
- Rosewood-Marburg Rd

This is an exciting boost for Ipswich infrastructure and we look forward to receiving details on the projects in the near future.



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Cr Heather Morrow (Div 5)	(07) 3281 8700
Cr Cheryl Bromage (Div 6)	(07) 3810 6556
Cr Andrew Antonioli (Div 7)	(07) 3810 6224
Cr Charlie Pisasale (Div 8)	(07) 3282 9600
Cr Sheila Ireland (Div 9)	(07) 3810 6231
Cr David Pahlke (Div 10)	(07) 5464 1088