

OP GRAND

SUN 25/8

By MURRAY HUBBARD and MERILYN MCKENZIE

EXHIBIT No. 244
CLERK

Coast assured water

A WATER pipeline linking the Gold Coast to Brisbane will go ahead - and fast.

The city council has moved swiftly to diffuse any suggestion it is stalling on building the \$80 million pipeline which will supply the Gold Coast with much-needed resources from the Wivenhoe Dam.

Councillors spent about 30 minutes responding to a *Bulletin*

editorial which accused the council of vacillating on whether to proceed with the pipeline.

Mayor Ron Clarke said the council was committed to the pipeline and had included funding in its budget for it to proceed.

Gold Coast Water is undertaking a study of the possible route for the pipeline, the environmental aspects and the anticipated cost.

Cr Clarke said that on September 19, 2003, the council had resolved that: "Increasing supply from the Wivenhoe Dam by a further 85 megalitres per day be adopted as council's next bulk supply source." He said this was proof the pipeline would proceed.

"It is imperative the public is provided with information that is accurate," he said.



Councillor Sue Robbins with her electric-powered Honda

Picture: Glenn Hampson

Sue Smarts at her non-starter

by Alice Gorman

SUE Robbins' green campaign stalled before it had started - quite literally.

The Coolangatta councillor took delivery this week of one of the council's 10 new hybrid electric cars to be trialled over the next year.

But Cr Robbins had not even left the council car park when trouble struck - how do you start the Toyota Prius?

The so-called Smart techno-

logy was perhaps too smart for some.

"I went through all of the steps but must have done something the wrong way," she said.

"It just wouldn't start. The Mayor's secretary was helping me. We were pulling levers and pushing buttons. When it started I didn't really feel confident of driving off in case I couldn't start it again."

Cr Robbins has since exchanged the Toyota for a Honda, which she says is much

more user-friendly. The self-confessed lead foot admits that the Honda is also quite sporty.

"It's been great to drive. It's like driving a sports car. It's so responsive, a really tight vehicle," said Cr Robbins, who will permanently exchange her council Holden for the Honda.

If the council trial of the hybrid technology is successful, the administration's large vehicle fleet will gradually be exchanged for electric models.

A WATERFRONT landholding on Hope Island that is earmarked for residential development has been placed on market.

The 1.79ha site is in Boykambli, the southern gateway to Hope Island, and borders the almost completed Boykambli Canal, a flood-mitigation channel that has created openings for waterfront developments.

It is being sold by Azure Developments, which settled its \$3.25 million purchase of the land in December and laid plans for a \$89 million residential project.

The project, the site was to be the first of a number planned by the company.

Azure Developments' principals Tanner and George Lee are selling in wake of reworking plans for the site to include two seven-level towers and a number of four level buildings with 33 apartments as well as 11 three-level villas.

They initially planned only low-rise buildings.

They say they have decided that development of the site, on Skidde Avenue, is better suited to a bigger industry player.

The site is close to land which national

company Ausstrand has earmarked for a major residential project.

The Azure Developments property is to be sold by private treaty and is being marketed by Brad Duncelle and Graham Malander, of PRDnationwide's Gold Coast corporate office.

Mr Duncelle said the landholding was expected to attract the interest of major developers.

"Given the fact that the canal is almost complete and the storage of waterfront land on the Gold Coast I would expect interest to be very strong," he said.

"We are talking to market a property for which the owners are seeking development approvals for 11 waterfront housing lots and more than 80 apartments.

"Waterfront land of this nature just isn't available any more."

On its completion the Boykambli Canal will provide deeper boat access to the south arm of the Coomera River and the Broadwater.

The canal has been funded by Boykambli landowners who were required to dedicate part of their properties to the Gold Coast City Council to enable it to proceed.

Investors to quit island holding

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Residents tap in on car park 'pruning'

By SALLY POEHLAND

ANGRY Main Beach residents fear the latest round of natural pruning will make for an Indy grandstand after contractors began slashing trees near Macintosh and Park.

Residents say trees are cut up to 30-metre back from The Arrowneck Remnant opposite Cable Park, on Thursday, August 12.

John Atterbury said many residents were "upset" over the slashing.

"We have lost our right to try and preserve trees in Macintosh Park and have them replaced with a 32-car parking pit," he said.

"Surely one would have thought this sufficient."

However trees on Beach Parade, being a very small rural vegetation area - very rare commodity in Surfers Paradise - have been slashed and replaced by contractors in preparation for Indy.

"This issue must be immediately addressed or it is too late."

Next a grandstand

for Indy will be erected on this treasured natural vegetation."

Fellow resident Anne Rhodes said she had nothing against Indy, but questioned why so many trees needed to be sacrificed.

"I enjoy watching the race, but how many trees are they going to cut down," she said.

Gecko representative Tom Caamano said the remnant littoral rainforest contained many species of rainforest and other coastal plants and supported native wildlife, particularly small birds.

"This particular vegetation community type is very rare in the Southeast region and this is the last of its type in the Gold Coast area," he said.

Main Beach Progress Association president Bradyn Murphy said the tree cutting was disguised as 'pruning'.

"Indy wanted to go back into the tree line one metre, apparently for the safety of their marshals," he said.

"Obviously no one could measure down there because they went



MAC ATTACK ... Main Beach residents fear for vegetation and wildlife at Macintosh Island.

Picture: MIKE BATTERHAM

back three metres. They cut out all the foliage and exposed all the bare roots in the middle and it looks quite ugly."

Mr Murphy said it was now a matter of keeping Indy officials 'honest'.

"We are going to be right on to them to make sure what they say is what they do."

Surfers Paradise Councillor Susie Douglas said she was told the contractors were pruning and the trees they cut down were diseased trees.

"They got a bit enthusiastic in their slashing and were asked to stop until I received a report from council," said Cr Douglas.

"Once a report was issued, the limit for cutting the trees back was reduced to half a metre instead of one metre from the road.

"It was meant to be an annual prune to make sure the trees don't fall

on any of the cars up there."

Cr Douglas questioned claims that trees were cut back three metres for Indy.

"I don't know about that," she said.

A Gold Coast City Council spokeswoman said approval was given for minor pruning to be done at the request of Gold Coast Motor Event Corporation officials.

"Vegetation was overhanging roadside kerbing and pruning was carried out in line with Australian standards by council's parks and recreational services - about a metre in from the verge and to a height of about two metres," said the spokeswoman.

"Only dead and dangerous trees were removed. Living trees were pruned where necessary."

Joshua Cooney, from the Deputy Premier's Office of Sport, admitted Indy organisers had

made the request to cut back the trees.

"Indy officials requested that council look at some of the overhanging branches in Cable Park as part of its general maintenance program back in March," said Mr Cooney.

"But in terms of how far the trees were cut back was a decision made by council."

Mr Cooney said he was not aware of any plans to build an Indy grandstand in Cable Park.

Refunding changes 'unheard of'

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HE said a committee was formed two and a half years ago to estimate infrastructure changes.

The development industry and the community were represented on the committee, by UDIA's Peter Sippel and development consultant Brian Gasman.

"For the development industry to say they were not informed is just not right," said Cr Saroff.

Council in January introduced new infrastructure policies which aimed to deliver improved roads, parks, water and sewerage services through development cost regime.

But developers claim it is unlawful for council to increase charges on existing developments above the Consumer Price Index and they are experiencing hardship where commercial arrangements had been entered prior to the price rise.

Developers also claim they purchased at the height of the property market upon a known crisis regime.

Cr Saroff said land values had soared in the past two years, delivering a massive boost to council coffers.

"To me all this agenda item is designed to do is to defer the bad news to the community at a later date. The community need to be informed of the arrogance of this council."

"It's unheard of for a council to refund charges that have already been paid."

But council officers in a report stated a revised price scheme would not impact on ratepayers and was a compromise.

Prunch time for waste

DEVELOPERS throw away more than 115,000 tonnes of industrial rubbish annually, enough to fill Olympic swimming pools, so the Gold Coast Council wants to reduce the wastage.

Health and community safety committee chairwoman Cr Sue Robbins, said concrete suppliers throughout the city were being approached to establish a trial in which crushed concrete could be used as aggregate.

For more details council's 2020 Vision on Waste been posted on Gold Coast City Council's website www.goldcoastcity.com.au.

We'll be paying for the 'trade missions'

RATEPAYERS will foot the bill (more than \$30,000) to accommodate councillors going overseas on 'trade missions'.

And Deputy Mayor David Power will travel business class after last Friday's full council meeting voted against council policy.

Cr Power (at a cost of \$21,041) will visit the Gold Coast City Council's Sister City in Fort Lauderdale, to attend the 45th International Boat Show on behalf of Mayor Ron Clarke.

The decision goes against council policy which states councillors should travel economy class and pay any additional costs out of their own pocket to upgrade to business class.

Councillors also resolved that Cr Jan Grew would travel econ-

By SALLY POEHLAND

omy class to attend a Warner Brothers Movie Roadshow in Los Angeles - to attract movie interest to the Gold Coast. She was previously set to travel business class at a cost of \$13,000.

Cr Dawn Crichlow argued there was no need to send Cr Grew to LA as the Minister for Education and Arts Anna Bligh had recently attended the Pacific Film and Television Commission in LA on behalf of Queensland.

"Why don't we just request a report from the Minister, who has already raised Queensland's profile for film and television on the Coast?" asked Cr Crichlow.

"Why spend \$13,000 of ratepayers money when we can just view a report?"

"If we have \$13,000, we should be spending it on provid-

ing more firefighters to fight fires this summer and sticking to roads, sewerage, water and rubbish."

Cr Sue Robbins claimed the Gold Coast needed to represent itself rather than relying on the State Government.

"We are unique. We are the sixth biggest city in Australia, but we don't have capital city stature and we fall through the cracks," said Cr Robbins.

"In the past we have had excellent ambassadors helping us to prosper as a great city.

"We need to keep upfront, progress and push forward and not rely on State Government to drive our economy for us," she said.

Councillors voted to send Cr Grew to LA, but in economy class rather than business.

Cr Peter Young moved that

Cr Power's trip also be economy, but was outvoted.

Cr Bob La Castra said Cr Power was 6ft 4in and shouldn't be expected to sit in economy.

"He has to be in a fit state to represent our city," said Cr La Castra.

"He can't represent the city properly if he has been travelling 20 hours, squashed in economy."

Mayor Ron Clarke agreed councillors representing the city should not be sitting in economy.

"I know I wouldn't, and I don't expect Cr Power to, either," he said.

Full council ratified the junket recommendations, confirming Cr Power will leave in October to attend the Boat Show and Cr Grew will leave for LA in late September.