

Road set to be catalyst for growth

A DIRECT road connecting the region's coastal communities is proving a catalyst for growth, with residential development forging ahead.

Bundaberg Regional Council is assessing a development application from Offida Holdings Pty Ltd for the remaining four stages of its Bargara subdivision, to be accessed from Wearing Rd.

The lots are along an already completed section of the Hughes Rd extension, with work on the road continuing. When complete, the Hughes Rd extension will provide a direct route to Bargara from Back Windermere Rd.

The council's planning and development spokesman Ross Sommerfeld said the extension provided better access and more options for vehicles to travel the coastal region.

"Now we are seeing the opportunity for more and more development to thrive, including the Wearing Rd subdivision, with this latest application proposing an additional 26 lots," he said.

The site is about 2km from Rifle Range Beach and 5km south of central Bargara.

Stage 1 and 2 are complete and under construction, and if approved Stage 3 will include seven lots and a remaining 19 lots identified across stages 4, 5 and 6.

Bid to boost numbers

CQUni plan for foreign students

CAROLYN BOOTH

carolyn.booth@news-mail.com.au

ATTRACTING more international students to Bundaberg could bring a host of economic and flow-on benefits, with CQUni working to put plans in motion to seize the opportunity.

With a handful of about 20 international students currently studying in Bundaberg, most of them higher education researchers, CQUni's Associate Vice-Chancellor for Wide Bay Burnett Region Luke Sinclair said it was an area they were keen to expand.

"We'd love to see an increase in the number of international students in our regional centres," he said.

"It's a rewarding opportunity not only for the individual students but all students and the wider community through cultural awareness."

Mr Sinclair said Bundaberg's Chinese sister city relationship with Nanning provided a great opportunity to build up international student numbers, but there were many factors which needed to be considered to make it a viable prospect.



CONFLUENCE: Maryam Fatima, councillor Judy Peters, Luke Sinclair from CQU and Zain Aslam celebrate the richness of India. Mr Sinclair is keen to see more international students, particularly from China, study in the Rum City. Photo: File

"Accommodation, the transport infrastructure that's in place in the town and the course options that we've got," he said.

There's a lot to consider when it comes to working out accommodation, but options being floated are ones that could potentially be used for a

number of purposes.

"It's about developing a business case that's representative not just of a single uses, it's got to be multi-use," he said.

"It's got to be suitable for students but also potentially the corporate sector, for sporting events and entertainment, and that's been the challenge but

we've been in discussions with stakeholders and it's beginning to get some momentum."

Whether accommodation was in the CBD or on campus, Mr Sinclair said providing transport between the two was vital, with a half hourly shuttle between the two, one of the options being considered.

"The students want security, they want access to shopping and cafes," he said.

Mr Sinclair said short term plans to boost international study groups included increasing the numbers who currently travelled to Bundaberg for short-term study tours.

First sod to be turned at newest RV Village

BUNDABERG Mayor Jack Dempsey will today turn the first sod for the RV Lifestyle Village Oceanside on Burnett Heads Rd.

The ground breaking ceremony will mark the beginning of works on the multi-million dollar project, which will include 363 homes and 62 duplexes.

It will feature RV friendly garages, expansive parklands and 5 star recreational facilities including a lagoon pool, cinema, ten pin bowling lanes and a covered bowling green.

RV Lifestyle Village Oceanside Pty chief executive Phillip Stewart said he was delighted with the support the development had received.

"We've spoken with quite a few people travelling through the area over the Christmas period who have been so impressed by the region and what it has to offer. It's been referred to as a 'hidden gem' on more than one occasion," Mr Stewart said.

"We are currently taking deposits on the first release of homes in stage one and have new owners that have come as far as Victoria to secure a lot."

He said civil works on the development, which will cater to the over 50s market, will start in coming weeks with the first stage of community facilities and homes completed by the summer of 2019.

"We have spent a great



CEREMONY: Mayor Jack Dempsey will turn the first sod at the RV Lifestyle Village Oceanside site today. Photo: Contributed

amount of time in the planning stages to make sure that the development will be exceptional.

We are very excited to see our vision become a reality," he said.

Roaring release sent out by local police station

BUNDABERG police officers were out and about in the local community during the school holiday, and have shared their encounter in a funny release.

The local station sent in photos to the NewsMail of officers investigating "reports of a strange creature lurking at Hinkler Shopping Centre".

In the humorous media release, a police spokesperson said officers "attended and located the creature (dinosaur), which was angry at the time".

"Police were able to calm the creature down to see that it was part of an awesome dinosaur display."



ROAR: Bundaberg Senior Constable Jamie McCarthy. Photo: QPS

Dino Land attracted a wave of excited school children during the break, who got to pose and play with the giant figures.

The release was accompanied by a photo of Sen Const Jamie McCarthy at Dino Land.

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New speed warning signs

TWO interactive electronic speed warning signs are being installed on the Burnett Highway, 25 kilometres north of Monto, to improve safety and collect data about driver behaviour.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey said the Palaszczuk Government was investing \$75,000 to improve safety on a section of the Burnett Highway, through the Safer Roads Sooner program.

"The interactive electronic sign boards we're installing today are designed to detect the speed of approaching traffic and warn vehicles travelling faster than the speed limit to slow down," Mr Bailey said.



Speed warning signs will be installed near Monto.

"It's proven, cost effective infrastructure to improve safety on Queensland roads.

"The signage will also collect data to help us better understand driver behaviour on this

section of the Burnett Highway and role speed plays in crashes in the area."

Installation of the signs began at 6am yesterday.

"Motorists should observe all warning signs when approaching the road works and be aware of changed conditions, including reduced speed limits that may be in place," Mr Bailey said.

"I want to thank drivers in advance for their patience and co-operation while we improve road safety on the Burnett Highway."

Mr Bailey said road safety was a priority for the Palaszczuk Government.

Felicity Ripper