

Marina risk on file



Blood bank

THE Australian Red Cross Blood Service mobile van will be at Morayfield Market Plaza, cnr Morayfield Rd and Market Drive on Thursday from noon to 7pm. To make an appointment to give blood phone 3889 7333.

New bus stops

TRANSLINK has changed its bus stops at Bongaree. All Route 641, 642 and 644 buses now service two main stops on Welsby Parade, outside the Bribie Island Library. A new bus stop has been located on Welsby Parade, near the corner of First Ave. The bus stop on the opposite side of the road, previously on Toorbul Parade in front of Scoopy's ice cream shop, has been moved slightly north to the intersection of Welsby Parade and First Ave. The new stops mean several, smaller stops had been removed.

Centaur hotline

AN information hotline and website have been set up for the families of survivors and those lost on the AHS Centaur. Federal Member for Longman Jon Sullivan said the hotline, 1800 019 955 and website, www.defence.gov.au/Army/AHS_Centaur.asp provide information about the Centaur and a memorial service to be held in March.

Dance classes

SQUARE dance classes will be held at Caboolture Showgrounds, from 7.30pm-9.30pm tonight. Clogging classes are also held on Sundays, from 5pm-9.30pm. Classes are run by EZ Squares Caboolture, every week. Phone 0438 142 204.

Music awards

NOMINATIONS are now being taken for the 2010 Queensland Country Music Awards. The awards are open to artists who have been resident in the state at any time from July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. Nominations close February 12. Forms and further information are available on www.charterstowerscountrymusic.com.

By GLENN ROBERTS

THE State Government's environmental experts warn the Northeast Business Park could cause serious environmental harm, in a report Moreton Bay Mayor Allan Sutherland says is "dynamite".

The final comments from the Department of Environment and Resource Management on the project's environmental impact statement, released last week, are highly critical of several aspects of the development.

In particular, the report's authors have major concerns about the effect of the proposed dredging of 8km of the Caboolture River.

They said the potential impacts of dredging outweighed the "limited public benefits even if avoidance and mitigation techniques are adopted".

Cr Sutherland said the report backed the council's decision to reject the marina and residential element of the project.

The department said the predicted lower tide levels and unknown effects on inter-tidal habitat area could have "large ecological effects", and erosion caused by boat wash may increase sedimentation and reduce riverbank vegetation.

Any appreciable loss of habitat in the inter-tidal zone was likely to have "significant impacts" on estuarine food chains, biodiversity and their use as feeding or roosting sites.



DYNAMITE: The planned Northeast Business Park could damage the environment, according to a government report.

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Sutherland



Hinchliffe

The department said that based on the information submitted, the project would not boost environmental resources.

It noted that just three works had been allowed in Moreton Bay Marine Park

since it was declared in 1997, and they provided significant public transport and community facilities.

State co-ordinator-general Col Jensen refuted each

criticism, saying the issues were addressed in the conditions he had imposed.

He said proposal and the conditions placed on it would result in a net gain of coastal resources.

He also found the channel improvement works were necessary for public benefit.

State Planning Minister Stirling Hinchliffe told the *Herald* that the project had to pass more "necessary assessments".

"This matter is being dealt

with in an open and transparent manner," he said.

At last Tuesday's Moreton Bay Regional Council co-ordination committee meeting, Cr Sutherland said the council had been trying since July to find out what the department thought about the project, but the State Government had refused to release the report.

Mr Hinchliffe's office defended withholding the report, written in June, as normal practice.

Precinct plan becomes one-man war

COUNCILLORS have distanced themselves from Mayor Allan Sutherland's threat to "go to war" with the State Government over the Northeast Business Park.

At last week's co-ordination committee meeting, Cr Brian Battersby (Div 10) said councillors felt they had never said they wanted

war with the State Government. "I believe the council goes out of its way to work with elected representatives," Cr Battersby said. "This council wants to work with the State Government on this and other matters."

Deputy Mayor Greg Chippendale agreed, but said the State Government should allow the normal

planning process to go ahead.

State Planning Minister Stirling Hinchliffe has told the council that he is considering taking over the approval process.

This week, Cr Sutherland reaffirmed that it would be "war" if the State Government did that.

But he said he hoped the

issue would be resolved through the normal process of a case before the Planning and Environment Court.

Northeast Business Park Pty Ltd has lodged an appeal with the court against the council's refusal of the marina and residential component of the project.

Councillors Sutherland and Chippendale met Mr

Hinchliffe in Brisbane last Wednesday.

Cr Sutherland said the meeting was "frank but constructive" and said he was pleased the minister took the time to speak to him.

NBP chief executive officer Jeff Smith claimed there was "overwhelming community support" for the project.

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