



# Ingles sorry as ACCC tees off over delays

by Shannon Willoughby  
business reporter

DEVELOPER Graeme Ingles has come under fire from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for 'misleading' residents about the progress of a proposed golf course at the \$300 million Tee Trees estate.

An ACCC investigation found Mr Ingles and his company Ingles Group 'mislead residents and potential residents' over a proposed \$20 million golf course which is now under construction at the Arundel estate.

Mr Ingles and the Ingles Group have agreed to apologise over the actions.

More than five years ago, residents paid top dollar for blocks of land at the estate – flagged a 'residential golfing community' – that were to overlook an international-standard golf course.

However, the development of the course was put on hold until earlier this year, after the group received Gold Coast City Council approval.

The ACCC said that in a letter sent in

2003 to residents or potential residents, Ingles Group had been 'misleading or deceptive or likely to mislead'.

The letter referred to the progress of the golf course.

The investigation followed complaints made to the ACCC.

Ingles Group has agreed to place two public notices in *The Bulletin* apologising to those who were misled or deceived.

In the notice, the group will admit the 2003 letter about the progress of the golf course was 'likely to mislead or deceive residents or potential purchasers'.

It will upload a public notice to the estate's website for 60 days, as well provide quarterly updates to residents about the progress of the golf course via the internet and a mailout.

The group will also establish a Trade Practices Compliance Program being led by a senior staff member, who will undergo training.

It will also carry out an annual 'broad and rigorous' review of the program which will be independently assessed.

Mr Ingles yesterday declined to com-

ment on the ACCC's investigations or findings.

Last year, the group said the development of the course was delayed because:

- In 2003, the council asked for the site's 550 trees to be analysed and required flora and fauna studies.

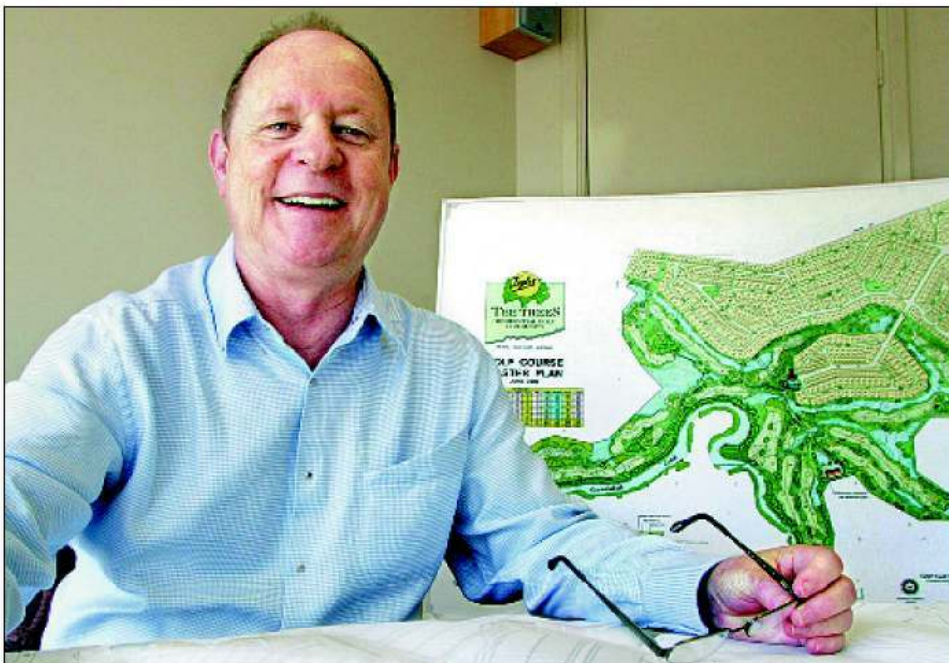
- Council then asked for 12 more environmental reports, ranging from an amended tree-clearing report to amended engineering drawings.

Work on the course started in April, with the first stage of development including the building of haul roads and the establishing of environmental protection and personal safety measures.

Last November, following the approval from council, Mr Ingles said the delay had been frustrating for his group.

"It's been a long and draining process but I am sure that the residents of the estate will agree that it will have all been worthwhile once the golf course is completed," he said at the time.

Ingles Group is also behind the \$500 million Big Sky community development at Coomera.



Graeme Ingles is sorry about delays in building the promised golf course as part of the \$300 million Tee Trees Estate