

# The OBSERVER

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S1

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS GUIDE INSIDE TODAY!



# Boom times to continue

## More projects pencilled in for region

By GLEN PORTEOUS

THE Gladstone region has stamped its mark as Queensland's economic powerhouse, with the region set to deliver one third of the state's \$80

billion future investment potential. Gladstone City Council (GCC) mayor Peter Corones was excited about the economic potential the Gladstone region had to offer following the release of the Gladstone

Area Promotion and Development Limited (GAPDL) Project Status Report.

The report, released this week, stated there was more than \$20 billion in projects in the Gladstone re-

gion under construction, recently completed, or under investigation.

"Gladstone City, as well as the Gladstone region, has a worldwide reputation as Australia's emerging economic powerhouse," Cr Corones

said. "We have shown the doubters that our region is not a 'boom' or 'bust' economy but a region of sustained growth and a certain future."

Continued Page 6

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Page 6 --- The Observer, Wednesday, December 20, 2006

# CQ boom times continue

## From page 1

Some of the projects listed in the report include development of the current TICOR site, Belvedere Coal, Xstrata - Wandoan, Anglo Coal - Dawson Coal Mines, Enertrade - Central Queensland Gas Pipeline, Lodestone Exploration - Cracow and Calliope Shire, Molopo Australia, Monto Coal Mining Project, Queensland Energy Resources Limited's Stuart Shale Oil Project.

GAPDL CEO Daniel Rochford said the steady increases in investment in the region had led the organisation to enact new and bold economic development initiatives.

"Since GAPDL has been compiling the Project Status Report we have noticed a steady increase in the amount of investment in our region, particularly over the past year," Mr Rochford said.

"Over the coming years GAPDL will be ramping up its selling of the Gladstone region to ensure our huge growth is sustained."

However, there are a number of projects listed in the report that included the Aldoga Aluminium

Smelter which has come to a standstill over the past two years.

Also the recent knockback of a second power station by the Stanwell Corporation due to operating costs has thrown some doubt on the Queensland Coke and Energy proposed coking plant, which in turn could have helped support a steel mill in Gladstone.

But Cr Corones remained optimistic about the prospective multi-billion dollar developments and investments for the Gladstone region.

"There is no doubt about the Gladstone region's ability to handle this level of development. We are now recognised as the global industrial location of choice and currently we are Rio Tinto's largest investment portfolio in the world," Cr Corones said.

"There is a prospective \$60 billion investment for the state of Queensland and we are looking at alone being one third of that. If only we get half off the ground that is proposed we will be a very busy region and we will always look into other prospective developments to replace the unsuccessful ones."

## Proposals

## Possible developments

- TICOR site
- Belvedere Coal
- Xstrata - Wandoan
- Anglo Coal - Dawson Coal Mines
- Enertrade - Central Queensland Gas Pipeline
- Lodestone Exploration - Cracow and Calliope Shire
- Molopo Australia
- Monto coal mining project
- Queensland Energy Resources Limited's Stuart Shale Oil Project

## Doubtful

- Aldoga Aluminium Smelter
- Second power station by the Stanwell Corporation
- Queensland Coke and Energy proposed coking plant
- Gladstone steel mill

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