

If Ipswich can do it, so can we

IPSWICH Mayor Paul Pisasale will be pleased with his PR commando raid on the Gold Coast.

He successfully negotiated a couple of deals on behalf of his city but also enjoyed the limelight of being compared with his Gold Coast counterpart as a 'can do' city leader.

There is no doubt that Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke is not a favourite of developers at the moment – and Mayor Pisasale was here at the invitation of businesspeople.

Cr Clarke wants to cap growth and is reluctant to offer any fee relief to developers wanting to invest in the city.

Oddly, Cr Clarke found himself with an unusual ally in Premier Anna Bligh this week when she announced the \$3000 incentive plan to lure people bush. It is just a population cap by another name.

The real issue is getting the right facilities built for the inevitable growth, as this editorial column argued yesterday.

But it is unlikely our Mayor will take the lead on this issue.

It is against his stated philosophy.

And that is why the business community craves the breath of fresh air that a speaker like Paul Pisasale brings.

He was part of the Ipswich council in 1991 that waived headworks charges for any development that brought 100 jobs to the city.

Ipswich was on its knees economically and it was Pisasale's first term in council.

But that sort of thinking has become a trademark of Ipswich's style under his leadership.

He keeps things simple, runs the ruler of common sense over decisions and abhors bureaucracy for its own sake.

These are three things that our council could adopt today and make a significant difference to the city.

Jet-ski wash-up

SPEAKING of the ruler of common sense, the proposed jet-ski ban at Harley Park boat ramp at Labrador is a case in point.

It appears the local council has no such jurisdiction.

And to float the idea of further no-go zones for jet-skis on the Broadwater is even more mischievous.

It is just another idea from Ron Clarke's council destined for the scrapheap or



Inv

FINDING the pace rapidly changing on the Gold Coast can sometimes feel like the pursuit of an elusive matching shoe in a pile at sale time.

The Coast has always been a city that has looked firmly to the future but the paradox of the city's combination of a constant influx of visitors with the constant reshaping of the environment makes a ledge of the past even more critical both for present and the world and for capturing a sense of belonging to a place.

Conventionally, Ipswich sandstone buildings are conspicuous by their absence on the Coast but you can find them in other ways.

I always smile going to Chevron Island bridge and looking down at the bridge beneath those strange structures, recalling that they were there by a developer who 'announced' his island and prevented anyone from bringing over any old house back of a truck and demolishing the standard. I wanted to set for the island.

The past is a happy memory on the Coast.

Recently the new Gold Coast Surfworld at Currumbin is a popular surf heritage exhibit.

At Burleigh, the Jerrri Aboriginal Community hosted a memorial service for local indigenous Digul and launched the Yugamul Exhibition.

The Southport School invited the Gold Coast community on to the school for a Heritage Festival to acknowledge and celebrate