

Ipswich whirlwind blows away Coast deals

by Geoff Chambers
council reporter

IPSWICH Mayor Paul Pisasale came, saw and conquered. In a whirlwind 24-hour visit, the colourful self-promoter secured deals that will take business away from the Gold Coast.

Cr Pisasale scored a 'mates-rates' campaign with Tourism Queensland to bring Ipswich residents to the Gold Coast and negotiated an agreement with the Gold Coast Titans to host an 'Ipswich day' at Skilled Park.

In a pitch to steal development from the Gold Coast, the civic leader took centre stage at the Sustainable Development Gold Coast breakfast at the Marriott Resort.

Leading Coast developer John Fish and tourism identity Tom Tate have already promised to travel to Ipswich to meet with Cr Pisasale.

Tourism Queensland Gold Coast regional director Denise Deveney pledged to pursue a 'mates rates' advertising blitz, to attract more tourists from the west.



Paul Pisasale

"Ipswich forms a vital part of our tourism market and I think this would be a great promotion," said Ms Deveney.

Mr Fish, who developed the \$2.5 billion Marina Quays project, said as a former Ipswich boy he was inspired by Cr Pisasale.

"Paul has made a significant impact in changing the image and perception of Ipswich and his unified approach to local government is the type of model that should exist on the Gold Coast," said Mr Fish.

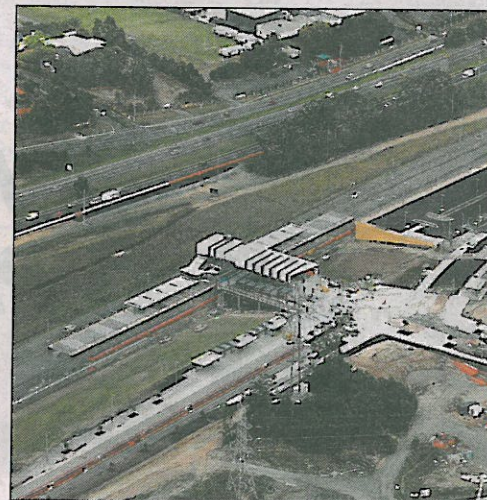
"Here we have too many factions who dominate decisions and stifle progress."

Mr Tate, a former mayoral candidate, owner of the Islander Resort and sponsor of the breakfast, said Cr Pisasale was 'fantastic'.

Cr Eddy Sarroff agreed.

"I give Paul a 10 out of 10 for promoting Ipswich and showcasing its value," he said.

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Anna's big dream

by Suzanne Lappeman
political reporter

PREMIER Anna Bligh has 'big dreams' for the future of public transport in Brisbane but is still asleep at the wheel on transport ideas for the state's second largest city, other than the already controversial Gold Coast rapid transport system.

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