



FLOUR POWER: A glimpse at what the \$280million Albion development would look like (above); much of the iconic flour mill (below) will be preserved

Village to rise in old mill precinct

EXCLUSIVE

Darrell Giles
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE iconic flour mill and silos at Albion on Brisbane's northside will be the focal point of a \$280 million village development.

The State Government and developer FKP will transform the 1.3ha site into a new community based on the railway station.

Premier Anna Bligh said the Mill Albion project would be the first Transit Oriented Development, which incorporates housing and offices linked to major transport centres.

A Smart State Council report released in July identified four super-precincts — Bowen Hills, City West, South Brisbane and Woolloongabba — with major redevelopment planned.



The areas would be bigger than the CBD and feature major train and bus links.

Albion would be an extension of the Bowen Hills project.

Ms Bligh said Mill Albion would preserve the heritage-listed former Defiance Flour Mill and its silos in a mix of residential and retail buildings linked by public plazas and

spaces. "It will transform what is not a particularly attractive area into a first-class precinct providing a vibrant place where people can live, work and socialise only eight minutes' train ride from the city," she said. "The development preserves a part of Queensland's history while offering a blueprint for the future."

The last piece of the puzzle was sorted out with Brisbane City Council on Friday with an agreement to build a multi-million-dollar footbridge to Albion railway station.

Ms Bligh said Mill Albion would include recycled timber and bricks from the current site. There would be 20,000sq m of office space,

5000sq m of shops and 143 apartments.

There would be two main office buildings, with one as high as 12 levels.

The one, two and three-bedroom units would be in three buildings, including the renovated flour mill, which will feature 11 apartments.

Ground floor retail space would include cafes and restaurants, a major supermarket, medical centre, newsagency, deli, bakery and grocers.

Ms Bligh said southeast Queensland would need 575,000 new dwellings by 2026 to accommodate the expected influx of one million people.

"To stop urban sprawl from swallowing our remaining open spaces, the SEQ Regional Plan proposes that nearly half of the new dwellings be built in established urban areas," she said.

Shark alerts shut beaches

SHARK sightings closed beaches yesterday, and on others lifesavers were kept busy with dozens of rescues.

Rainbow Beach, 80km north of Noosa, and Northcliffe on the Gold Coast were closed for a short time after shark sightings.

The sightings capped a busy day for Queensland's surf lifesavers who rescued a man dumped in the surf at Sunshine Beach. The man was taken to hospital with suspected spinal injuries.

Eighteen people were rescued by lifesavers on the Gold Coast, where the surf swelled to 1.5m. Ten were plucked from the water at Burleigh after being caught in a large rip about midday.

Man escapes house blaze

A MAN and his dog were lucky to escape uninjured from a fire which partly destroyed his family home in Brisbane yesterday.

The man, 22, woke just before 10am to the smell of smoke and discovered that an upstairs area of the Chelmer home was ablaze.

When his parents arrived at the Richardson St home, his mother collapsed and was treated by paramedics.

His father was comforted by neighbours.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service said it appeared the fire started in an upstairs bedroom and at this stage was not being treated as suspicious.

Ears cut off in assault

A GOLD Coast man had both his ears severed in a shocking assault at a popular swimming hole yesterday.

The man was taken to the Tweed Heads Hospital and later transported to the Royal Brisbane Hospital, where he was reported to be in a stable condition last night.

A police spokesman said the assault occurred at the Currumbin Rock Pools about 2pm. The man, 38, from Elanora, was refusing to talk to police and declined to make an official complaint.

Police are investigating possible links to an outlaw motorcycle gang.

The severed ears had not been found.

Bomb injures another Digger

Lincoln Wright

AN AUSTRALIAN soldier serving as a bomb disposal expert has been seriously wounded in Afghanistan after a roadside bomb blew up as he tried to defuse it.

The incident follows the recent deaths of Sgt Matthew Locke and Trooper David Pearce in Afghanistan.

The wounded soldier, Sgt Michael Lyddiard (pictured), is a qualified explosive ordnance disposal operator serving with the Reconstruction Task Force in the south of the country. It is believed he is from Queensland.

Yesterday, Defence spokesman Brigadier Andrew Nikolic

said it was likely Sgt Lyddiard would be transferred to a hospital outside Afghanistan.

The incident comes as servicemen and women are leaving the Defence Force because of pressure from their families.

Neil James, executive director of the Australian Defence Association, said about 10 per cent of the military was now serving overseas. "The biggest single cause of people leaving the military is some form of family pressure," he said.



Sgt Lyddiard was part of a team involved in a route-clearance task when the explosive was discovered.

No other soldiers were wounded in the incident, which happened late on Friday evening, Australian time.

Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, said fellow RTF members secured the area and provided medical assistance.

"He was provided with emergency care at the scene and evacuated by helicopter to a nearby surgical facility at Tarin Kowt," he said. "Medical staff describe his current condition as serious but stable."

The Defence spokesman

said they would also transfer an immediate family member to be by his side if possible.

Air Marshal Houston said Sgt Lyddiard's family had been notified and Defence was doing everything it could to support them.

"In accordance with the family's wishes we ask that their privacy is respected at this difficult time," he said.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Sgt Lyddiard, his family and friends."

Extended and dangerous tours of duty overseas are believed to be behind soldiers being urged by their wives to quit the military.

Forecasters say expect a wet week

THE state is in for a good soaking this week, with a storm forecast for today and rain due on Tuesday carrying through to next weekend.

Forecasters say Queensland can expect similar falls to those now in drought-stricken South Australia.

Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Vikash Prasad said rainfall of 10mm to 30mm a day in the southeast corner was expected.

"The system that is affecting the southern states at the moment is going to push eastwards, and that is what is going to affect us," he said.

The rain is expected as Queensland Water Commission launches an advertising campaign today to warn businesses of the Level 6 restrictions to be introduced before the end of the month.

The \$450,000 TV campaign will run for four weeks.

Under the proposed restrictions, businesses must meet a target of 25 per cent savings by November 2008 and install special water meters on certain equipment.

Companies also will face court fines of up to \$124,875 for wasting water.

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