
Sharp increase in residential activity in Ipswich

Ipswich is becoming an increasingly popular place to live, with its growth in new residential lots outstripping the rest of the State, Planning Minister Desley Boyle says.

Releasing the *Queensland Residential Land and Dwelling Activity Monitor March quarter 2004 today*, Ms Boyle said Ipswich was an outstanding performer.

“While other councils may have approved more new lots for development, Ipswich City Council showed the highest growth,” Ms Boyle said.

“There were 35,270 residential lots approved by Queensland councils in the year to March 2004 - a 42.8 per cent increase over the previous year.

“Ipswich City recorded 2,965 residential lot approvals – a massive increase of 92.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2003.

“It also recorded 2,113 residential dwelling approvals, up from 936 in 2002 and 1,091 in 2003.”

“It looks like Ipswich is really coming of age, and I think that’s terrific,” Ms Boyle said.

“Now that people have discovered Ipswich, it’s really important the council plans well to accommodate this growth - and we’re here to help.”

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said people from South East Queensland and all around Australia were now discovering the wonderful lifestyle of the *New Ipswich*. Ipswich is a community that’s big enough to make a difference and small enough to care. Our sense of community is the strongest I have experienced anywhere in the world yet we have the benefit of living on the doorstep of Australia’s most dynamic capital city. This growth is a real opportunity for Ipswich but we also have to be careful to plan and build infrastructure so as to maintain our quality of life.

“By monitoring these growth trends and developing a South East Queensland plan, that is exactly what the Beattie Government is doing,” Ms Nolan said.

Ms Boyle said the report showed seven of the top 10 ranking local government areas for residential lot approvals were in Queensland’s south-east corner.

“Queensland is fast becoming one of the most attractive places to call home, and it is positive to see that growth is occurring right around Queensland,” she said.

The Gold Coast recorded the highest level of lot approvals (5271) followed by Brisbane City (4037), then Ipswich (2965).

The *Queensland Residential Land and Dwelling Activity Monitor* is produced by the Department of Local Government, Planning Sport and Recreation and can be purchased from the following website: www.lgp.qld.gov.au.