



ON THE JOB: Police conducted a major RBT on the Bruce Hwy at the Ettamogah Pub on Wednesday.

## Operation Lasso ropes in 3 positive drivers

PHOTO: CADE MOONEY

ROAD blocks will not stop, is the warning from the Sunshine Coast's police chief after another unremarkable highway operation where motorists proved on their best behaviour.

Only three drink drivers were picked up from more than 1800 random breath tests conducted in the second instalment of Operation Lasso for the year on the Bruce Hwy at Palmview on Wednesday.

The highway was brought to a standstill between 9pm and 2am yesterday with every vehicle stopped for the annual school holiday operation.

Only three drivers returned positive drug tests from 46 random tests.

Officers issued 22 traffic infringement notices and eight notices to appear on 10 charges, including the alleged possession of amphetamines and cannabis.

Police stopped 30 heavy vehicles. Eight of those drivers were issued with traffic infringement notices.

It is the second time this year the highway operation, which saw the Coast's police joined by the State Traffic Taskforce, has returned statistics of "pleasing behaviour".

At Easter, seven drink drivers from 1021 were picked up in the taskforce's last appearance.

But Sunshine Coast police Superintendent Ben Hanbidge said the absence of offenders only made him more resolute to ensure the operations continued.

"We will always continue these operations," Supt Hanbidge said.

Police are determined to keep fatalities down for the second year in a bid to avoid the horror and carnage of 2009 when 35 people were killed.

## Scanner a \$2.7m health lift

PATIENTS are set to benefit from a new \$2.7 million MRI at Nambour General Hospital.

The new scanner has double the magnetic field strength of the previous MRI.

Health Minister Geoff Wilson said it would produce sharper and clearer images which would enable more detailed diagnoses.

"Particularly for rheumatology, orthopedic, gastroenterology and neurology," he said.

"It will also be able to perform highly specialised breast MRIs, meaning patients will no longer travel to Brisbane for this procedure."

Mr Wilson said the new MRI had been available to patients for the last two weeks.

It followed a refurbishment at the hospital to accommodate the 7.5-tonne machine.

The installation of the MRI required the use of a crane to manoeuvre it through a hole created in the exterior wall of the hospital.

It was then moved on wheels.

# 'Our resources boom'

KAWANA will become the Sunshine Coast's 'resources boom' - a 'game changer' for the region which will inject \$1 million a day for five years.

More than 200 business leaders attended a half-day forum in Maroochydore yesterday to see how they could be part of what will be a \$3.5 billion injection in the local economy from the hospital and surrounding development.

Sunshine Coast Council CEO John Knaggs said the university hospital, due to start construction in 2013 and be finished in 2016, would be complemented by fast-tracked development.

Detailed planning carried out by the council and developer Stockland would mean much of the project would be 'self-assessable'.

## GAME BREAKER What the university hospital is worth to us

THE Sunshine Coast University Hospital - at more than \$2 billion - will be the largest hospital project in Australia. Its value represents a quarter of the Coast's \$9 billion annual economy.

More than 15,000 people will visit the hospital every day, creating immense transport requirements on the region.

Stockland anticipates almost 175,000sq m of new mixed use buildings and more than 2000 dwellings

to be built within the surrounding health precinct and town centre. The area will include 15 football fields of parks and buildings ranging up to 10 storeys high in the heart of the town. Workers at the hospital will be able to ride from work to the beach.

Once open in December 2016, the hospital will employ 3500 people while its operating budget will be \$680 million a year - about the same as the courts.

"It will get out of the ground very quickly," he said.

Mr Knaggs also signalled a new approach by the council to aggressively target new industries - offering them incentives to come here - including pharmaceutical companies and nanotechnology.

Stockland regional manager Troy Wainwright said \$1 million a day would be spent on in the Kawana area for the next five years.

Developments would include 2200 dwellings for 5300 new residents, 173,950sq m of mixed use facilities, and a \$2.75 billion outlay

creating 13,000 jobs in construction and 10,000 operating jobs.

Mr Wainwright said the town centre alone would feature more than 500 units, 20,000sq m of retail, an indoor entertainment centre and venues with 24 hour liquor licences to cater for hospital shift

workers.

Health Minister Geoff Wilson told the Urban Development Institute of Australia forum that the new tertiary hospital would stop about 10,000 patients a year having to go to Brisbane for treatment.

Once open in December 2016, it would employ 3500 people - many of whom are being recruited over the next couple of years as services are ramped up at Nambour and Caloundra.

Mr Wilson said the three consortiums bidding for the rights to build the hospital would have to demonstrate a commitment to engaging with local firms to maximise the economic spin-offs here, while still meeting national competition guidelines.

— MARK FURLER



Regis Kulwin, offering a level rarely seen in aged care living, is now open and to celebrate is inviting you to see first hand this premium facility.

With hotel style services at your finger-tips Regis Kulwin offers a range of spacious premium rooms and first class amenities for those looking for the ultimate in aged care accommodation.

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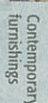


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