

## ***Southeast Queensland's Infrastructure Boom***

In a recent article in the courier mail (Aug 15<sup>th</sup>), Wayne Cameron & other concerned parties talked about Queensland's infrastructure boom...

The growth around us is phenomenal, projects happening thick and fast. Requests made to various organizations such as B4C to take part in community consultations are increasing rapidly. These organizations are mostly run by volunteers, are none for profit and are being overwhelmed by it all. The organisations now have to be more selective and joining forces wherever possible.

In the Bulimba Creek Catchment there are at least 8 projects that cut through the catchment. Included on this list are the Gateway Arterial upgrade, the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of The Port of Brisbane and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project.

*"We don't want to go back to the old days when there was no consultation. But we're finding we're not able to respond adequately and we're missing the opportunities." Said Wayne.*

The process of community consultation needs to be improved, with the input put in by the community being taken seriously and not ignored if it goes against Government ideas. Getting the community involved early in the projects is an important key to the process, opening consultation to the community after plans and decisions have been made wastes everybody's time and gets in the way of true consultation with all parties.

Wayne believes what's needed is *"a true community liaison system"*. *"What we really need is someone appointed from the State Government to deal with the community on major infrastructure projects and get some integration between them."*

He cites the Oxbow area of Bulimba Creek, where a pipeline is being laid next to the Gateway Bridge extension and where Energex and Powerlink also have interests. *"For me to deal with all that and hold down a night job, the pressure is really on."*

With continuing support and increased input from the community and environmental groups we hope for better care for our environment when it comes to future development and growth.

Compiled by Karen Francis, Sept '07

