

Plans land for hub of business at airport, The Chronicle 14 December 2004



More expansion...the scrubland in the right foreground will be developed into the \$75 million Hervey Bay Airport Industrial Park to attract more business to the Bay

A MASTER-PLANNED industrial estate full of businesses which work hand in hand with the new \$11 million Hervey Bay airport is the dream of Bay businessman Glen Winney.

The first steps in making the dream a reality were made when the Hervey Bay City Council and Seashift Properties signed a contract to start a joint-venture company to develop and sell the Hervey Bay Airport Industrial Park.

The \$75-million project will straddle 40 hectares of scrubland stretching from the entrance of the airport to an existing industrial estate in Ellangowan Road.

The project was sparked by two things: the lack of industrial land in the city and that the development of the airport to jet aircraft standard would attract business to the city.

“It will be a master-planned development,” Mr Winney, managing director of Seashift Properties, said.

“We want to attract businesses that will have an affinity with the airport.

“There may even be precincts within the park to keep businesses together.”

The plans call for businesses to meet architectural standards, especially those that will front on to the road into the airport,

“There will be up to 100,000 people flying into Hervey Bay so the airport will be a major entrance to the city. We do not want scruffy businesses along the road,” he said.

“There are stringent covenants on what buildings can look like and building times because we do not want speculators sitting on blocks for two or three years.”

To create a sense of community the plans allow for a park, a day-care centre, service station and food outlets.

Earthworks should begin in the first quarter of 2005 and should finish just as the jet airport is opened in July.

Although advertising for the project should start before Christmas there was already a demand for land, Mr Winney said.

“We have people interested. There could be a couple of thousand workers in the industrial park by the time it is finished.”