

# Population booms in Ipswich and Somerset

## Adjoining districts among Australia's fastest growing

PEOPLE are still flocking to Ipswich, but the Somerset region is proving an even greater attraction for those on the move, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Somerset region recorded the fastest population growth in south-east Queensland during the last financial year, expanding at 4.2 per cent.

From July 2009 to June 2010, 910 people moved to the Somerset region increasing its population to 22,500. Ipswich rated second among south-east Queensland's

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fastest growing regions, but did record the fourth largest growth of any area in the state.

The city swelled with 5800 new residents last financial year and just three months ago the region's population passed 170,000.

Somerset Regional Council deputy mayor Neil Zabel said suburbs such as Lowwood, Fernvale and Eagle Rise were experiencing a population explosion.

"There really is an explosion of

### POPULATION BOOM

- The eastern suburbs of Ipswich saw the highest rate of growth in the city, attracting 3200 people last financial year.
- Ipswich central suburbs attracted 2000 people.
- The largest growth area in Australia was Melbourne, which attracted 79,000 new residents.

people coming here. The land is a lot cheaper but you're still close to

Ipswich and Brisbane," Zabel said. "The size of the blocks is also vastly different to Brisbane and even many parts of Ipswich.

"In Fernvale you can get an 800-sq m block but even in the new development of Ripley you will only get 400- to 500-sq m blocks."

Cr Zabel said he expected the population boom to continue in Somerset for several years.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics report stated population growth was down across the country compared to previous years.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Truckie caught without licence

A TRUCK driver has been banned from driving for a month after being caught driving unlicensed.

Stephen John Wellman, 35, was caught behind the wheel on March 24 at Ipswich.

Ipswich Magistrates Court heard Wellman's licence had previously been disqualified and he had failed to reapply.

Wellman pleaded guilty to driving unlicensed, a repeat offender, and was fined \$175.

His licence was disqualified for the mandatory minimum of one month.

#### Minor injuries in two-vehicle crash

A WOMAN received minor injuries in a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of the Centenary Highway and Ipswich-Boonah Rd, Purga yesterday.

Police said a truck and sedan collided at

— AAP

find his feet in the NSW Cup. However, Furner has resisted the push to demote his big money signing and looks set to give Orford a chance to turn things around against the equally battling Panthers. Raiders fullback Josh Dugan has been ruled out with a calf injury.

— AAP

"I think it has. At the moment Anthony is quite genuinely upset about it."

AAP

to be Einstein to work out the answer might be," said Haslam who believes the message will finally sink in for the repeat offender, Watmough.

Interchange: Mitchell Dodds, Ben Te'o, Josh McGuire, Shane Tronic, Dane Carlaw, Nick Kenny, Corey Norman (three to be omitted).  
**KNIGHTS:** Wes Naiqama, James McManus, Tafega Junior Satu, Adam MacDougall, Akulla Uate, Kurt Gledy, Jarrod Mullen, Antonio Kaufusi, Matt Hilder, Evarn Tuimavave, Zeb Taia, Chris Houston, Joel Edwards. Interchange: Marvin Karawana, Cory Paterson, Lisiate Richie Fatasso, Dan Tolar.  
**Referees:** Jared Maxwell, Phil Haines.

(all times local)