

Watto to be given Keys to the City

HE WON Ipswich's heart in the flood aftermath and helped start the healing process, and now Shane Watson is to receive the city's highest honour.

Watson will receive the Keys to the City - fittingly on the city's biggest day of the year, Ipswich

PETER FOLEY
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and was on the phone to my sister at home.

"I was so worried throughout, and when it started to peak I was calling my sister on the



City takes out special smart city recognition

FIRST Ipswich was named one of the world's smartest cities. Now it has received a special honour.

Water bills waived in Lockyer

QUEENSLAND Urban Utilities (QUU) says that Lockyer Valley residents whose properties were devastated in the January floods will have their latest water bills waived.

This follows the waiving of their January water bills.

Chief executive Noel Faulkner said 161 Lockyer Valley properties that were officially declared as "devastated" would now have a six-month respite from all water charges.

The utility will contact each property owner to advise them of the water bill waiver.

A \$102 reduction in water access fees for all Lockyer Valley residents also has been announced.

For more information go to urbanutilities.com.au or call 13 26 57.

Dangerous Blacksoil Interchange to be given overhaul Ipswich set to benefit from budget funding

IPSWICH residents are set to benefit from some of the key funding commitments contained in the Federal Budget.

Treasurer Wayne Swan fulfilled a pre-election promise by allocating \$54 million towards fixing the Blacksoil Interchange in last night's 2011-2012 budget.

The move means construction on the interchange, which will fix the dangerous and congested intersection between the Warrego and Brisbane Valley Highways, will start in the next 12 months. In addition to the federal funding, the Queensland

ZANE JACKSON & JOEL GOULD

government will kick in \$16 million to the project.

Blair MP Shayne Neumann heralded the announcement and said the project was just as important as the Ipswich Motorway upgrade.

"This is an important project for people who travel between Ipswich, Brisbane, Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley," Mr Neumann said.

"There are a lot of people who will benefit from the upgrade." He said it was an important link

road for mining and farm transport from west Queensland into Brisbane.

Mr Swan last night also confirmed that Ipswich residents not affected by the floods will join other Australians in paying a one-off flood levy.

The levy, which will apply only in the 2011-12 financial year, is expected to raise \$1.8 billion to help flood recovery efforts.

People affected by the floods will not have to pay the one-off levy, which will be 0.5 per cent on taxable income between \$50,001 and \$100,000 and one per cent on

taxable income above \$100,000.

Mr Neumann said the flood levy was "necessary for the rebuilding of Queensland and particularly the western corridor."

Also announced was the continued funding of the Ipswich Motorway upgrade, with \$155 million from the current budget being allocated to the \$1.95 billion project.

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale praised the budget generally and said he would "welcome anything that is going to help our city."

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