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‘We’re saving water like you wouldn’t believe’

Recycle priority

By STEWART MULLIGAN

ENVIRONMENT and industry have come together in a new development nearing completion at Stapylton.

Developer Bruce Mitchell said the \$8 million project was the first industrial subdivision in Australia to exclusively use in-house water and sewage systems. It has no connection to Gold Coast City Council infrastructure.

He said the 4ha site on the corner of Quinns Hill East and Stapylton-Jacobs Well roads showed industrial sites could be developed environmentally and still show a “handsome return on investment”.

Water from roads runs into three 45,000 litre tanks used to water the extensive native landscaped gardens.

Excess water is channelled into wetlands.

Recycled water from the sewage treatment plants will be used for irrigation.

Roof water will be collected in seven 45,000 litre underground tanks for potable use.

“We’re saving water like

closeup “eco” precinct

- Innovative industrial park set to open.
- On-site water, waste treatment.
- Australian benchmark project claim.

you wouldn’t believe,” Mr Mitchell said.

The site has video security and walking tracks link the site with a barbecue area beside the wetlands. Outside lighting and pumps are all solar powered.

The seven factories, ranging in size from 500sq m to 4000sqm, have energy efficient lighting and can be connected to the state power grid as required. An administration office and cafe are also planned.

All building materials were recycled and reconditioned to “look like new” with two of the buildings from Victoria and another from Surfers Paradise.

The energy efficient design has buildings facing north with awnings, while southern sides are built into earth embankments. Western walls are insulated with panels made from compressed recycled paper. Roofs are in white Colorbond and insulated, making the factories up to 10 degrees cooler than conventional buildings.

Mr Mitchell attended the Eco Asia Trade Fair in Hong Kong last year with Gold Coast council representatives to “see what the rest of the world was doing”.

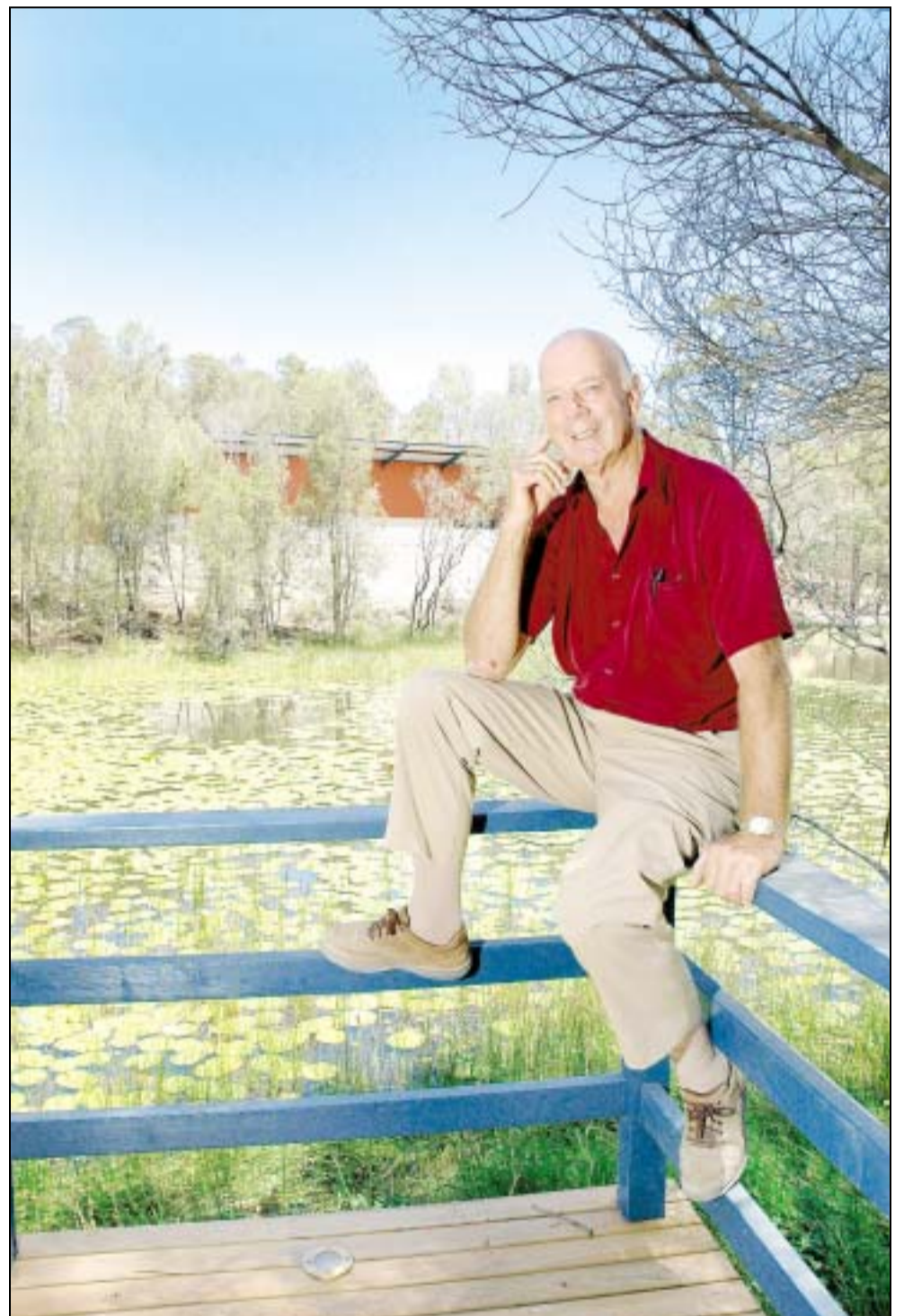
“I’m well ahead,” he said. “I’m very excited about what I’m doing here.”

“I hope this will set the benchmark in future industrial developments across Australia.”

Gold Coast deputy mayor David Power said this was a “very good development”.

“We will be looking at it with keen interest to monitor its success.”

The factories will be leased through Mr Mitchell’s company Blembrook Pty Ltd.



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■ No connection . . . Bruce Mitchell at the new industrial estate.

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