

NEWS

B-double trailers fall off on hwy

A STRETCH of the Bruce Hwy two kilometres north of Apple Tree Creek was closed in the early hours of Monday morning after two trailers came off a B-double.

A Queensland Police

representative said initial investigations showed the trailers had disconnected and ended up on the roadway about 2.40am.

No one was injured and the area was cleared by 8am.

MP's bill 'could harm QLD gays'

By SCOTT THOMPSON

A LEADING psychologist has warned Member for Burnett Rob Messenger's bid to overturn civil unions could endanger the wellbeing of gay and lesbian people across the state.

Mr Messenger released the copy of draft legislation in December, aiming to repeal same-sex civil unions in a new parliament following the state election.

But Paul Martin, principal psychologist at Brisbane's Centre for Human Potential, said repealing the recently passed law could lead to widespread mental health issues and suicide in gay youth.

"That action will be directly responsible for a lot of psychological distress for same-sex-attracted constituents," he said.

"What he's doing is that he's sending a very powerful message that their relationships are not valued or valid."

Mr Martin warned the MP's media comments and controversial stance could also lead to the spread of an anti-gay sentiment in his electorate.

"Because politicians are leaders and leadership is about influence, the actions and words they say have enormous influence," he said.

"The American Psychological Association has showed the negative rhetoric that happens as a result of this debate directly leads to psychological harm."

"There is a huge proportion of youth suicide in the country directly related to homophobia," Mr Martin said.

Mr Messenger was dismissive of the psychologist's warnings, saying they were "old allegations from people with vested interests".

"I've dealt with them before,"



REPEAL BID: Coral Coast Christian Church senior pastor Brian Robertson and Member for Burnett Rob Messenger publicly release their bill to overturn same-sex civil unions. PHOTO: FILE

he said.

"There are more important things to talk about - health, roads, government waste."

Mr Messenger also reiterated he was not homophobic.

"I support gay people to live however they choose, but I don't support the attacks by certain gay groups on the traditional Christian custom of marriage," he said.

Shelly Argent, the national spokesperson for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, likened the MP's repeal bid to a Middle Eastern dictatorship removing civil rights.

Ms Argent said she suspected homosexuals and gay rights groups could seek a High Court

challenge if Mr Messenger succeeded in repealing the civil unions.

"I do know that if he succeeded, you could be sure there would be backlash," she said.

A petition is currently running to persuade Campbell Newman not to reverse the recently passed legislation if he were elected, which can be found at:

www.change.org/petitions.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Email Scott Thompson

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Proposed Development
Have your say

From: Multiple Dwelling (2 Units)
To: Material Change of Use for Multiple Dwelling (12 Units) And Reconfiguring a Lot for Subdivision (1 Lot into 2 Lots) and Access Easement

By: Subramaniam Baratha Raj
C/- Wayne Say & Associates Pty Ltd
2A Churchill Street, Childers Qld 4670
On: Lot 2 on RP197210
☎: (07) 4126 2555
web: admin@waynesay.com.au

Approval sought: Development Permit - Material Change of Use and Reconfiguring a Lot
Application No.: 325.2011.33447.1

Comment period: 12.01.2012 TO 03.02.2012

Written comments to the assessment manager
Assessment Manager: Bundaberg Regional Council
Post: PO Box 3130, Bundaberg Qld 4670
☎: 1300 883 699
web: ceo@bundaberg.qld.gov.au

Copies of the full application can be viewed or obtained from the assessment manager

Public Notification Requirement
Sustainable Planning Act 2009 Form 5 v 1

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Rare tamarind in flower

ISIS Bushcare members are excited about the flowering of the critically endangered Isis Tamarind tree at the Isis Club.

The Isis Tamarind, or alectryon ramiflorus, is found only in the local area and it is believed there may be as few as 50 trees still alive.

Flowers appear around mid-summer, but the plant often produces seeds that are infertile and will not grow.

Isis Bushcare member Ian Gorrie was initially disappointed because he believed the flowers had dropped off, but he recently discovered fruit on the tree.

"It hasn't got many, but it's got some and they are green," he said.

"The ones out near the council dump ... there is definitely some red visible there, which means that the fruit is more advanced."

Mr Gorrie said the Isis Bushcare group were looking to ask experts to investigate the reproductive behaviour of the



IN BLOOM: Elio Zea and mum Margi Jessalut are excited about the flowering of the rare Isis Tamarind at the Isis Club.

PHOTO: SCOTT THOMPSON
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tree.

"The next step is to better understand its reproductive biology and the second one is to monitor the population more

closely," he said.

"Most of the trees are out near Cordalba and just keeping an eye on them is quite important."

Bundaberg Landcare secretary Maureen Schmitt said she believed the reason it was difficult to propagate the seeds was because it was possible the trees had only single-sex flowers.

"A lot of us believe that there are male and female plants, so that one could be a male or something," she said.

"Some people will disagree with that, but a lot of people I know who have done quite a lot of work will say there are male and female."

Ms Schmitt said once viable seeds were found, the plant grew easily.

"I remember years ago I was given one or two kilos of seeds to propagate, so they may not seed every year," she said.

"That one year I propagated hundreds, so once you get good seeds they come up easily."