

Local News

COURT

Fine for
bike ride

A 51-YEAR-OLD Mackay man with an "exemplary" driving record has lost his licence for an "error in judgement".

Stephen Austin Jones pleaded guilty to four driving offences including unlicensed driving of an unregistered and uninsured vehicle and low-range drink driving.

He'd been riding on a motorbike on Campwin Beach Rd on January 5 when stopped by police.

While he did have an open licence, he didn't not have an appropriate motorbike licence. The bike was not able to be registered, the Mackay Magistrates Court was told.

His blood alcohol concentration was about 0.067%.

Jones was fined \$1000 and disqualified from driving for two months. Convictions were recorded.

'The Village' transforms

Master plan 'could be a project worth \$100 million' for region

Troy Kippen

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COMMENT is being sought from the public on a community master plan in Sarina that includes the relocation of the hospital and emergency services.

The 67-hectare development, while still in the early stages, has the potential to change the town significantly over the next decade.

According to the plans lodged with Mackay Regional Council, along with the potential relocation of the Sarina Hospital and the fire and ambulance stations into an emergency services and health precinct, there will also be a commercial precinct that includes a tavern and convenience centre.

There is also a service centre precinct that includes a service station, fast food outlet and car and boat wash.

Developer, Sentinel Sarina Development Trust, purchased the cane farm land in April 2014 for \$3.3 million, according to the



There is an older population and people don't want to move from Sarina to Mackay.

— Warren Ebert

company's website.

Sentinel Property Group managing director Warren Ebert said the group had made other investments in Mackay, including the Mt Pleasant Cinema Complex and The Hub @ Greenfields.

"We are still confident in Mackay," Mr Ebert said.

"We have about seven properties up there and it's a good time to buy.

"You buy when everyone else is selling."

Mr Ebert said Sentinel was talking with healthcare providers and retirement village owners about Sarina and there had been support for the project.

"This could be a project worth \$100 million or more



'NO PLANS TO MOVE': Sarina Hospital undergoing construction in 2013.

PHOTO: ANDREA DAVY

when all the stages are said and done, but that will be done on demand," he said.

But according to Mr Ebert the response from the market had been positive.

"We have one company looking at 42 units in stage one," he said.

"There is an older population and people don't want to move from Sarina to

Mackay.

"There is nothing up there to accommodate them."

Mackay Hospital and Health Service (MHHS) confirmed there had been discussions with the Sentinel Property Group about the relocation of the hospital to near the showgrounds but that was during the Newman

Government.

MHHS chief executive Clare Douglas said there "was no plan to relocate the Sarina Hospital".

"The HHS has previously considered a range of options for the provision of health services in Sarina, and one of these was relocating to a new purpose-built facility."

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Daily Mercury

Sarina

MEANWHILE, cane growers have no issues with a cane farm being changed to residential land as long as it fits with the zoning.

Mackay Regional Council is seeking public comments on a 67-hectare community masterplan in Sarina that includes the relocation of the town hospital and emergency services to a site that was previously used as a cane farm.

Canegrowers chairman Paul Schembri said developments that reduced cane farming land were a "complex issue" right up and down the coast.

"This happens in every regional centre from New South Wales to Cairns," he said.

Mr Schembri said this development would not have a large impact on the size of harvestable land but it was quality agricultural land and it was close to the mill.

"In the Mackay region we have 90,000 hectares under cane so this 67ha is relatively small," he said.

Mr Schembri said Canegrowers was consulted regularly when it came to zoning land.

"Ultimately if it meets the requirement of the town plan then there is very little that Canegrowers can do,"

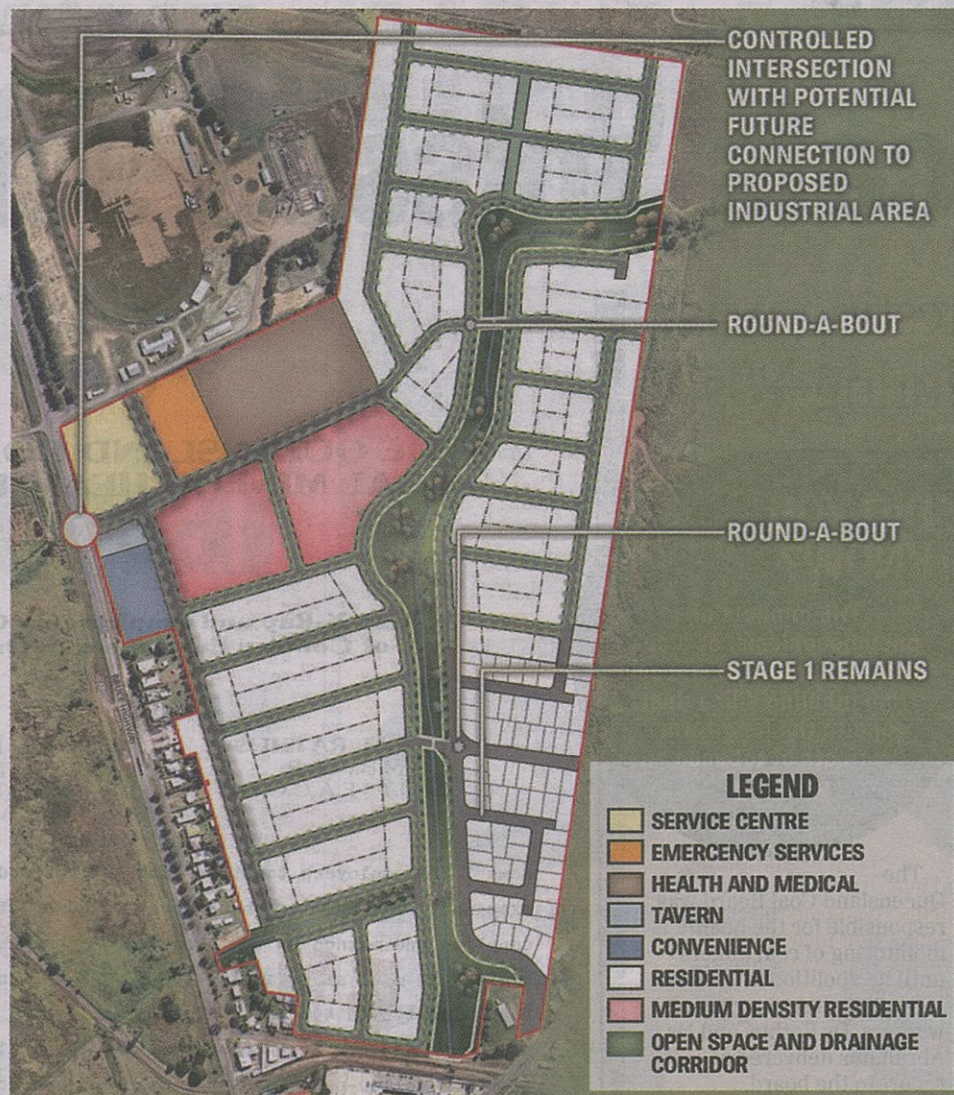
APPLICATION

- 'The Village' Sarina
- 7 Brooks Rd West and 160 Oswald St, Sarina
- Residential land, medium density residential (retirement centre), service centre, health and medical precincts, and emergency precinct close to the showgrounds.
- Comment period to February 26
- Developer Sentinel Property Group
- Developer has eight property investments in Mackay and Whitsunday.
- Investments include Mackay Industrial in Paget (Toll Holdings lessee) and the Airlie Beach terminal.
- Phone Mackay Regional Council on 1300 622 529 for details.

he said.

"Canegrowers work with various local authorities in developing their town plan, to secure the future of the cane industry.

"It is good to know the areas that are protected and



areas that we are losing. Not only where we grow the cane but also where to invest in infrastructure."

Mr Schembri said

Canegrowers had a very good working relationship with the Mackay Regional Council and was often advised on any zoning

issues.

He said Canegrowers was trying to retain as much cane growing land as possible.

NEWS BITE

Court date for man with police hat

A MOUNT Charlton man will appear in court after he was allegedly found possessing a police hat. Mackay District Drug Taskforce officers attended a North Mackay home over another matter when the located a genuine QPS officer's hat. A 24-year-old man was charged with possessing tainted property and will appear in the Mackay Magistrates Court next month. Anyone who locates property owned by the QPS is encouraged to contact their nearest police station.

Ambo's uniform stolen from station

PROSERPINE police are searching for an ambulance uniform after one was stolen. Between 2-6pm on January 17 a person has entered the Proserpine ambulance station in Chapman St. Police have alleged that a carry bag containing genuine Queensland Ambulance Service operational uniforms and other personal clothing items were stolen. If you have any information that could assist phone 4945 9666.



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COURSE	LOCATION	DATES	MEMBER PRICE	NON-MEMBER PRICE
SUPERVISOR TRAINING (S1/2/3)	Mackay*	27-29 Jan	\$380	\$395
G2 RISK MANAGEMENT(RIIRIS402D)	Mackay	25 Jan	\$190	\$200
	Moranbah	21 Jan		
PROVIDE FIRST AID	Mackay	22 Jan	\$150	\$150
	Moranbah	29 Jan		
CPR REFRESHER	Mackay	21 Jan	\$65	\$65
	Moranbah	29 Jan		
ADVANCED RESUSCITATION TECHNIQUES	Mackay	21 Jan	\$160	\$160
LOW VOLTAGE RESCUE	Mackay	21 Jan	\$95	\$95
	Moranbah	29 Jan		
RISA INDUCTION - STANDARD 11 SURFACE	Mackay	27-28 Jan	\$660	\$660
	Moranbah	27-28 Jan		

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