

# LNG project a 'win-win' for region

By **KIERAN MORAN**

THE Queensland Curtis LNG project is estimated to generate more than 4000 jobs at the peak of construction and stimulate a \$32 billion increase in gross state product in its first decade.

QGC, a BG Group business, is developing the multi-billion dollar investment to help develop Queensland's coal seam gas industry.

Gladstone Engineering project manager Alliance John Smits said it was a win-win situation for Gladstone any way you look at it and QGC was inviting potential suppliers and contractors to learn more about the project at the GEA's launch of its Tender Readiness Program on Tuesday, February 23.

"It's going to strengthen major industry in the region through heightened supplier capability from various aspects, like the environmental foot print," Mr Smits said.

"It will also raise the capability of local and regional supply chains to enable future transition to global supply chains.

"We have the capacity. We have always supplied industry here in Gladstone. Yes, we need to raise the bar when it comes to world class LNG projects.

"And if we can do that why don't we look at exporting, we have the port. If we are able to meet demand locally then why shouldn't we do so internationally."

Mr Smits said the reason for the Tender Readiness Program was to build and deliver a strategic information and development program for business supplying to major industry in the Gladstone region.

"It will give suppliers and contractors a snapshot of what they have to achieve in order to acquire more work," he said.

# Should needy get a 2nd Chance?

By **ADRIAN TAYLOR**  
**ROCKHAMPTON**

A MOVE to halt a free food service for Rockhampton's homeless and destitute has Pastor Chris Ganter asking: "Where's the compassion?"

He's worried that a petition to ban the Second Chance Ministry food van from operating on any council-owned land, could close an essential service that has distributed countless thousands of meals to the needy over the past 10 years.

The petition, which has 208 signatures, has been tabled by Cr Greg Belz who said he would ask his colleagues to withdraw permission for the van to operate on council property.

"The matter needs to be examined so that needy people can be helped in ways without large numbers of people in our community feeling alienated and unsafe in some of the loveliest community park areas in the city," Cr Belz said.

An average of 30 homeless and itinerant people are fed, and in some cases clothed, by volunteers each evening in Rockhampton at locations including Ray Wilson Park which adjoins the Riverside car park.

The petition was raised among car park users and people who live near the Fitzroy.

Reverend Ganter, senior pastor at the Rockhampton Baptist Tabernacle, said there had been incidents as the homeless gather for their daily meal.

"It's part of the culture of



**CONCERNED:** Chris Ganter from the Rockhampton Baptist Tabernacle with the 2nd Chance Ministry food van.

Photo: CHRIS ISON C110-0210-7

homelessness and closing the food service won't change things dramatically. The poor won't go away," Rev Ganter said.

And if the mobile service is forced to close he believes it will be the council's responsibility to

provide an alternative.

Cr Belz said there was a reasonably-held view that the operation of the food van was simply rewarding anti-social behaviour and he was calling for a review of council policy.