

# Towers to get street cameras

by Daniel Bateman



daniel.bateman@news.com.au

CHARTERS Towers is looking to install a network of security cameras in its main street for the first time in history, to halt a crime wave.

The town is in the grip of a youth crime epidemic, with several businesses targeted by thieves.

Charters Towers Mayor Frank Beveridge said CCTV was being planned for the town as the best means of defence.

The council plans to spend at least \$20,000 to purchase a network of cameras, and is seeking further funding through the Queensland Police Service.

It hopes to make a decision within the next two months to proceed with installing cameras on council buildings on Gill and Mosman streets.

Charters Towers' CCTV network

could be modelled on that of Tully's, which allows police officers to access security footage wirelessly.

Deputy Mayor Wally Brewer, a former police officer, said the cameras would not be an invasion of privacy.

"It's helped us recently clean up a number of serious crimes around town and the number of local businesses who have now installed cameras and alarms is dramatically on the increase," he said.

Charters Towers officer-in-charge Senior Sergeant Graham Lohmann said security cameras were an important police tool.

"In instances where there has been good-quality CCTV footage, we have been able to successfully prosecute offenders," he said.

Everett's Quality Meats owner Barry Everett, whose Marion St business was broken into last week, said residents did not even lock their doors 30 years ago.

"We didn't even have a key for our back door," he said.

## Stadium having its time in the sun



**SUNSHINE FEELING:** Tropical Energy Solutions director Frank Dallmeyer overseeing the installation of solar panels at Tony Ireland Stadium.  
Photo: FIONA HARDING

TONY Ireland Stadium is having its moment in the sun after installing an innovative solar system that will be the first of its kind in North Queensland.

A total of 160 solar panels are being installed on the roof of the stadium, which will save Townsville Council up to \$25,000 a year.

A crane has been lifting the panels on to the stadium roof as part of a project which can produce, store and feed solar energy into the power grid.

Acting Mayor Vern Veitch said

the stadium could also be a valuable post-disaster location in the event of power blackouts.

"This system is a first for the city and another extension of the enormous amount of work the city is doing to embrace energy efficiency and alternative every technology," he said.

"What makes this project extremely innovative is the capacity to store the energy as well as feed it back into the mains grid.

"This means that we will get the benefit of offsetting electricity

costs, and having a system that can provide a valuable power source to the community for emergency operations in the event of a disaster."

Cr Veitch said the system was expected to take six to seven years to pay for itself.

The system is being installed by Tropical Energy Solutions, which has also installed solar systems on the Rowes Bay Sustainability Education Centre, Reef HQ and the Solarus Apartments.

Anthony Galloway