



I think Scrub Rd needs to be looked at . . . the engineering, for coping with that amount of traffic
 - NOEL SEAWRIGHT, BELMONT STATE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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- ➔ **PAGE 5:** Meet the candidate gunning for Chatsworth.
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Penny drops on naval base

RICH REWARDS: THERE'S A GROWING PUSH TO BUILD A NEW PORT AT BULIMBA

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PENNY Cutting has seen first-hand how beneficial a naval base can be for a city. It is why the South East Brisbane Chamber of Commerce president advocates the Defence Force Posture Review recommendation to bring one to Brisbane.

Mrs Cutting has lived in San Diego, the principal homeport of the Pacific fleet in the United States.

There she has seen local businesses thrive, something she would love to see happen here at the existing Bulimba Barracks.

"The local business community would reap rich rewards from a navy base," she said.

"Sailors have money and they haven't been off this ship, haven't had anywhere to spend it. The retail sector, food and hospitality, transport and so on . . . there are enormous spin-offs for the local economy."

With Bulimba Barracks sitting on the Brisbane River with boatloads of empty space, Mrs Cutting said it was the perfect place for a naval base.

"Right now it's a waste of riverfront land," she said. "There are many empty buildings."

"It's a very under-utilised piece of property."

Mrs Cutting said there would be added flow-on effects, including the necessity for more major hotels in the region to accommodate naval officers on weekend shore leave.

➔ **Would a new navy base at Bulimba be good for the local community? Add your comment at www.questnews.com.au (click on east)**



UNDER-UTILISED: Bulimba Barracks has been proposed as the ideal location for a new naval base in Brisbane. Picture: JIM CAMPEY



Veteran says river congestion too heavy

THE ship has sailed on building a naval base on the Brisbane River, according to navy veteran Alan Hellier.

The president of the Holland Park-Mt Gravatt RSL Sub-Branch served in the Australian Navy for 21 years before signing off as a petty officer radio supervisor.



Hellier

He has welcomed the Force Posture Review recommendation for a navy base to be built in the city, saying it was "long overdue".

But any plans to use existing land belonging to Australian Defence at Bulimba - or anywhere else on the Brisbane River - would likely have to be shelved.

"I definitely don't think it would work in the Brisbane River," he said. "There is so much commercial shipping, it congests things a lot."

The recommended base would be used to complement the Sydney base.

Brisbane and Cairns are being considered too. Mr Hellier said he hoped the recommendation would become reality in the future.

"Back in the old days, I had a few postings here. It was an active navy in those days, with patrol boats and so on," he said.

"But (Brisbane has) become forgotten as a naval city."

Consultation a priority for development plans

THE local community will be consulted before any naval base becomes a reality on Brisbane's southside.

Federal member for Griffith Kevin Rudd warned that any hard decisions were a long way off, but said he would work extensively with local residents should a naval base for Brisbane become more than just a recommendation.

"So let's just see what navy and defence come up with," he said. "But we intend to work very closely with the local



Rudd

community on this.

"If the decision comes to this area it's something that I would then, as

the local member, work very closely with the local community on.

"Remember our first priority is always to provide proper support for our men and women in uniform in the job that they do," Mr Rudd said.

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