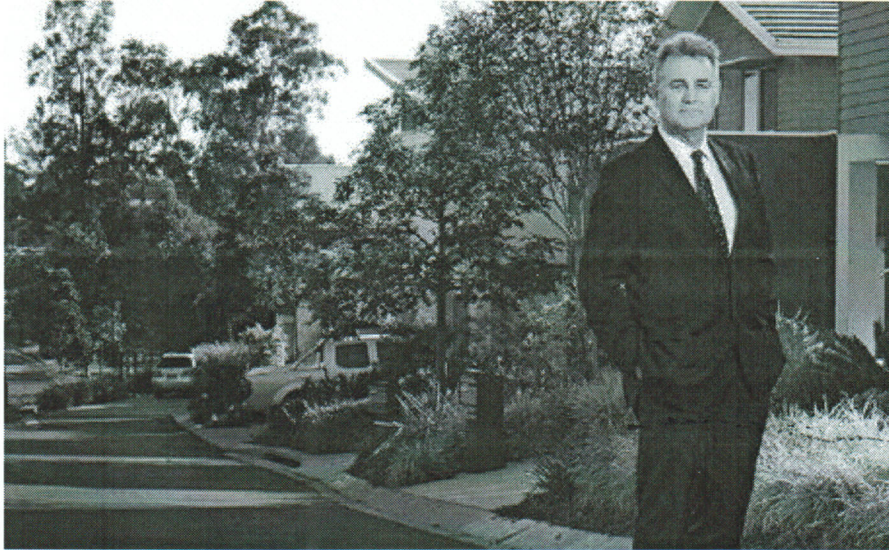


# Our city poised to be the new Parramatta

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GOING GANGBUSTERS:

Commentator and social trends expert Bernard Salt says Ipswich is set to boom. **Rob Williams**

IPSWICH will become the focus of population and jobs growth in south-east Queensland over the next few decades - according to Australia's most renowned demographer, Bernard Salt.

Likening Ipswich to Sydney's Parramatta, Mr Salt said Ipswich would become a strong regional centre in the next 30 years.

And he predicted that the Brisbane metropolitan area would double in size to 3 million or 4 million - with most of the growth taking place in the south-western corridor of Springfield, the Ripley Valley and Ipswich.

Parramatta, west of Sydney, has undergone a growth surge in recent years and now boast the sixth-largest CBD in Australia. Mr Salt said Ipswich, to the west of Brisbane, is set to become its Queensland equivalent.

His forecast was made yesterday at a Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce breakfast function held at Drift Brookwater, where Mr Salt was the guest speaker.

He said the growth would provide Ipswich with great benefits.

"Where jobs decentralise to this area, you don't just want jobs - you want hospitals, universities, social institutions, entertainment centres," he said.

"What you want is the people of Ipswich municipality having at their disposal everything they need within the local area."

"For the past 100 years, Brisbane - whose population is now 2.2 million - has been a north-south city which has made it a very elongated urban form," he said.