

The new vision for learning

ONE of Australia's first master-planned education communities, Education City, opened its doors this week to 850 students.

The \$85 million Education City first stage was completed last month including stage one of the University of Southern Queensland, a multi-educational provider training building, a childcare facility and childcare training centre, a retail village and a student accommodation village.

About 18ha of land has been flagged for Education City's growth, which will take place strategically over the next 10 to 15 years.

Education City is the vision of Springfield Land Corporation chairman Maha Sinnathamby.

Mirvac joined Springfield Land Corporation in 2004, bringing with it holistic development and delivery expertise.

Mirvac shares SLC's vision for quality and innovation for development and education.

Mr Sinnathamby said he wanted to create a fully-integrated community that embraced lifelong learning and teaching.

"History has shown that great places generate momentum hosting excellent education institutions and cities like Cambridge, Oxford, Dunedin and Princeton are prime examples of this," Mr Sinnathamby said.

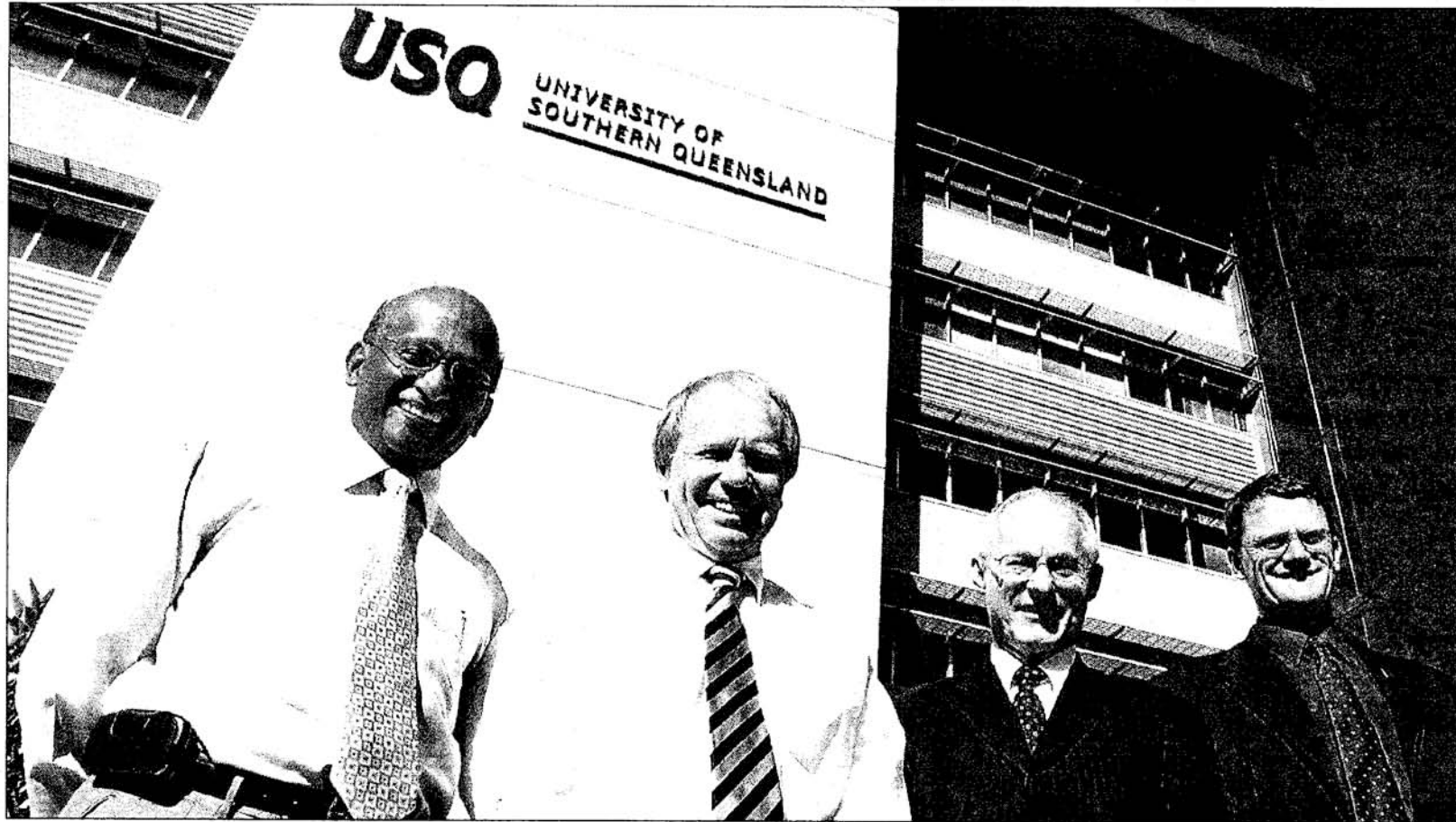
"Despite the magnitude of Education City's first stage, what is currently built actually represents only about 10 per cent of the development's potential.

"We want to grow Education City strategically to ensure there is a good fit of providers on campus.

"This encourages partnerships between the providers and also achieves our intention to provide learning pathways for students, as well as unique courses."

In addition to the University of Southern Queensland campus, Education City includes a number of education providers that generate a holistic learning environment.

Bremer TAFE has joined USQ to offer additional learning pathways for students studying at the Education City campus. ABC learning Centres and Union Institute of Languages will also be located on the grounds. David Matthews, Chairman of PDTC Architects, responsible for the design of the



VISION . . . from left, Springfield Land Corporation Chairman Maha Sinnathamby, Premier Peter Beattie, USQ Vice Chancellor Bill Lovegrove and USQ Springfield Campus Director Doug Fraser

World Knowledge Centre, USQ Building and Auditorium, said the main objective was to provide an educational hub of the future.

"We considered resource and energy efficiency, healthy buildings and materials, ecologically and socially sensitive land use and aesthetic sensitivity when planning this development," Mr Matthews said.

Boulderstone Hornibrook, one of Australia's largest integrated engineering, building and

service providers, constructed the 18,000 sq m development.

Project Manager David Tracey said there were more than 300 workers on site each day to complete Education City.

Mirvac Queensland CEO Chris Freeman said planning was well underway for the next stage of Education City.

"We had always planned to grow Education City over a number of stages," Mr Freeman said.

"With stage one almost fully leased and operational, we are looking at the facilities, services and education partners needed for the next stage of Education City.

"We anticipate that construction on stage two will commence later this year."

Mr Sinnathamby said he expected the final number of students to exceed 10,000 across Greater Springfield when Education City is complete.