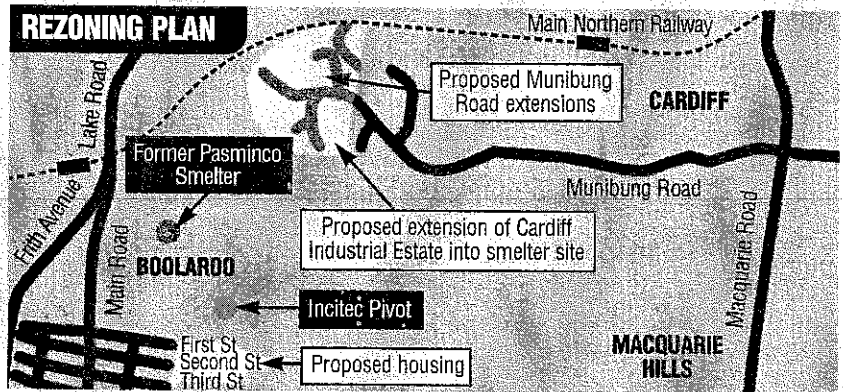


Mercy Chapel. — Picture by Simone De Peak

# Housing option at Pasminco

## Proposal put for smelter land



By **DAMON CRONSHAW** and **MELISSA CHAIN**

HOUSES could be built on Pasminco-owned land less than 100 metres from the fertiliser plant Incitec Pivot.

The fertiliser plant is next to the former Pasminco lead and zinc smelter.

Pasminco is under administration by Ferrier Hodgson, which has contracted management of the site to the Fitzwalter Group.

Project director Anthony Fitzsimmons said an industrial subdivision and two residential rezoning applications had been lodged with the council.

The group wants to extend First, Second and Third streets, Boolaroo, for standard and medium-density housing on a 10-hectare site.

Medium-density housing is also planned on a 10-hectare site opposite the former lead and zinc smelter, between Frith Avenue and Main Road.

The Cardiff Industrial Estate would be extended with 18 hectares of the smelter site. It includes an extension of Munibung Road.

"We're not proposing to cut the land up into small lots, that will be done after we sell it," Mr Fitzsimmons said.

He said the entire Pasminco site was about 195 hectares.

The company was investigating uses for a 104-hectare parcel, which it will further consider when a council land-use study for the area is completed.

Council city strategist Ian Andrews said there was "no way the council would consider housing there, while Incitec Pivot is operating".

Mr Andrews said a draft of the land-use study was due to be finished this week, but the finalised study would not go before councillors for at least two months.

The rezoning applications were on hold until councillors had established a "preferred use" for the land, he said.

At least 3 million tonnes of toxic waste covers the smelter site.

A study commissioned by the group proposed an on-site containment cell for the waste, which had been stockpiled and covered with high-density plastic.

Plans are under way to extract lead from the stockpile and sell it.

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