

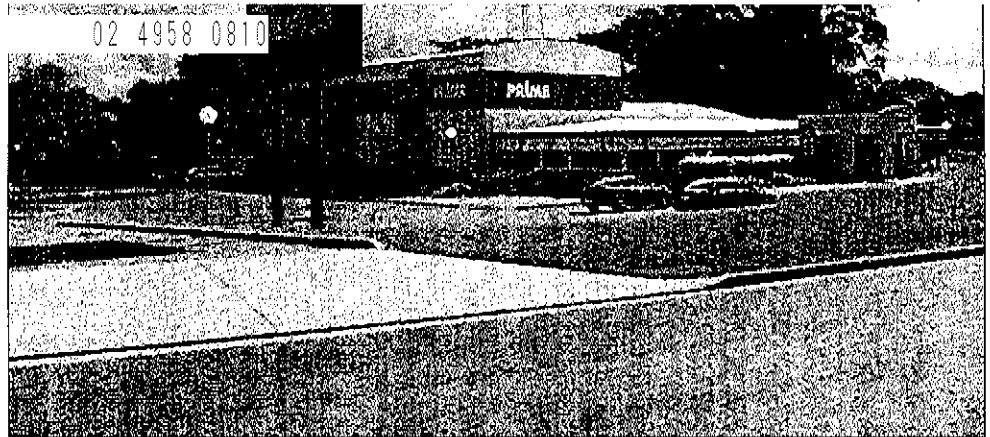
tain the new site half-hour news bulletin in 2001 in Sydney

buy the facility with the Australian Broadcasting Authority's limitation on new regional networks.

"If it were film production studios it would be wonderful. Newcastle's quite a fabulous location, but of course Australian film struggles for funding," she said.

The 1300-square-metre television studio at 116 Lake Road, which could be adapted for a number of purposes, has been listed for sale by expressions of interest with Tony Marshall of Colliers International.

Mr Marshall expects it to fetch \$2-\$2.5 million.

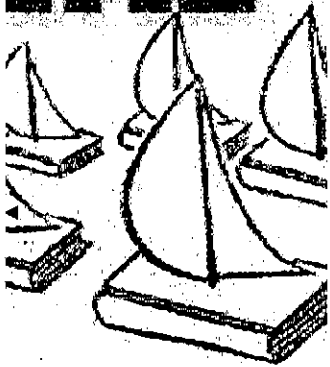


FOR SALE: Prime Television is selling its 9524-square-metre property in Elormoro Vale.

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Ex-smelter site likely job zone

By DAMON CRONSHAW
Lako Macquarior Reporter

THE closure of the Pasminco smelter provided an opportunity to reinforce the largest employment zone in the Lower Hunter, the Cardiff industrial estate, according to a Lake Macquarie City Council report.

The report, by city council strategist Ian Andrews, says employment-generating land uses on the site would "more than replace employment lost through the closure of the smelter".

The report includes a draft land-use strategy for Munibung Hill, which includes Pasminco's landholdings.

Mr Andrews recommended not supporting an application by the Fitzwalter Group to rezone land to the east of First, Second and Third streets, Boolaroo, for housing.

The application was premature, he said.

Housing in that area would be "incompatible" as it would neighbour Incitec Pivot, a superphosphate plant, and pose environmental concerns for residents.

"It may also undermine the ongoing conduct of Incitec Pivot's operations if new residents raised complaints about its operations."

The report said Incitec Pivot had advised that it intended to occupy the site indefinitely.

Two options were floated in the land-use strategy, which included Incitec Pivot operating or being closed.

Light industry was the predominant land use for the smelter site with Incitec Pivot still operating.

With it closed, the smelter site would be remediated to a standard that would allow predominantly residential uses.

The report said the Fitzwalter Group was preparing a remediation strategy for the site.

The NSW Department of

Environment and Conservation had to approve the strategy before the council could agree to rezone or develop the site.

The strategy proposed to contain all contaminated material and treat contaminated ground water to a level that would allow safe discharge through storm-water channels into Cockle Creek.

"Fitzwalter has advised that the Boolaroo smelter site ... is capable of supporting residential development following remediation," the report said.

The report urged councillors to consider a plan by the Fitzwalter Group to rezone land between Main Road, Boolaroo, and T C Prith Avenue, known as the "Triangle Paddock" for medium density housing.

It would extend Boolaroo's residential area and provide support to the Boolaroo commercial area.

Councillors voted in favour of Mr Andrews's recommendations.

Rugby league great 'tackled in bar blue'

A MAN with a violent and drunken past crash-tackled rugby league great Mal Meninga at a pub and was punched by the footballer, a court was told yesterday.

Meninga, 44, is on trial in the ACT Supreme Court on charges of assault and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The former Test, Queensland and Canberra Raiders captain has pleaded not guilty to both charges relating to the alleged assault of



ON TRIAL: Mal Meninga has pleaded not guilty.

conversation in PJ O'Reilly's bar, Tuggerahong.

Mr Todd said Meninga followed Mr Hurley down the street and struck him on the face.

Meninga's defence counsel, John Purnell, SC, told the court Mr Hurley had crash tackled

Antarctic killers out of hot water

PRIME Minister John Howard has ruled out forcibly keeping Japanese whaling ships from Antarctic waters.

Pressure is mounting on the Federal Government to do more to stop the hunting of whales, including the famed humpbacks, in the Antarctic.

Japan is believed to have killed more than 400 whales in the Antarctic, ostensibly for scientific research, since a whale sanctuary was declared.

anose whalers in its exclusive economic zone, newspaper reports said yesterday.

Among the reasons given were that the whalers were too fast.

Instead, the Government has set out a list of instructions to Australian Antarctic Division leaders on what to do when they meet a Japanese vessel.

Mr Howard said Australia was pushing hard for a change to Japan's plans to resume hunting