



City's future looks green

By TRAVIS LYE

BETTER transport and renewable energy are among the city's top green priorities, according to a major city council initiative.

The findings came from the Gold Coast Energy Future forum section of the city's Bold Future initiative.

The information was derived from written replies, online surveys and two city forums.

Mayor Ron Clarke said green choices, affordability, availability, reliability and reduced reliance on heating and air-conditioning were rated by residents as the things they valued most.

Their main energy priorities included improved and sustainable modes of transport; green and renewable energy choices; self-sustaining housing and sustainable living; solar energy; and government incentives and rebates for green power.

"Of these, sustainable modes of transport and green and renewable



Ron Clarke

energy choices were seen as the most important," said Cr Clarke.

"The results so far indicate the community wants to see less reliance on cars and more people walking, cycling and using public transport."

Cr Clarke said residents also wanted energy for public transport to come from renewable sources.

"There also appears to be strong local support both for large-scale renewable energy generation and price fixing and for a carbon-neutral or reduced energy footprint through mandatory passive design," he said.

Cr Clarke said more than 2500 people had responded to the surveys and forums.

"Considering we are barely two months into the project, I think the participation rate has been excellent," he said.

The Energy Future is one of nine themes residents are being asked to consider during the 12-month initiative to develop a blueprint for Gold Coast for the next 30 years.

The other themes are economic, beaches, culture, environment, transport, land use, community and water.

The next city forums are expected to start early next year.

Cr Clarke said the council was putting residents in the 'driver's seat' to determine what the Gold Coast would be like in 2037.

"It's up to the community to grab the wheel," he said.

Residents can visit www.boldfuture.com for a feedback form or pick up a copy from a council library or customer service centre.