



STORM DISASTER AREA TO GET URGENT AID; 3 DEAD

THE Works Minister (Mr Hodges) will make a personal inspection today of the devastated Kin Kin area, where three people died on Saturday night in a killer storm.

The violent wind struck the Moran Group and Wahpunga dairy and small crop farming areas between Gympie and Noosa.

The sparsely populated farming area about five miles north of Kin Kin was still mourning and counting its losses last night from the devastating storm, which hit without warning.

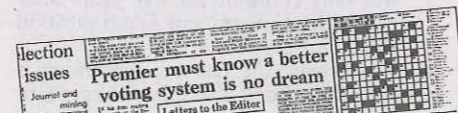
The storm swept around hillsides and through valleys. People who saw it from the veranda of their hillside home described it as "a big white wall of destruction".

CARDINAL URGES BRUTALITY PROBE

BELFAST: Cardinal William Conway has condemned internment without trial, and called for an inquiry into allegations of brutality against security forces in Northern Ireland. He said: "Catholic bishops over and over again have condemned killings and other forms of violence as a means to political ends, and it has been acknowledged that this view is shared by the great majority of Catholic people."

"It is necessary to state that abhorrence of internment without trial, and particularly its one-sided application, is equally deep and widespread among these same people."

LETTERS TO EDITOR



BROADBAND is a tool for national development much as railways were in the 19th century. Around the world, the railways helped develop countries mostly through national programs. Australia didn't have a national program and the incompatible gauges

HOW is the new super broadband going to benefit those of us who aren't sitting in front of a computer all day (probably 95 per cent of the population)?

I am a farmer and we have a family building company. We access the internet via wireless

Would it not be better to supply the system to an area, for example CBDs, where it would actually enhance the business prospects?

Then we could put the many billions saved into our hospital systems before they collapse.

Mark Postle,
Mundubbera

● LISTENING to the expenditures being spelled out in order for politicians to provide all these wonderful things for us, it occurs to me that we are being bought by our own money.

Sam Brkich, Kelvin Grove

● IN computing there is hardware (computer), software (operating system) and vapourware (what the salesman promised, which evaporated before being delivered). That the National Broadband Network offered by the ALP is going to be 10 times faster strikes me as vapourware.

Bill Gabriel, Morningside

● RUGBY union star Quade Cooper has expressed interest in playing rugby league in 2011. I expect to read news reports soon of the NRL administration's righteous indignation and refusing to allow a code hopper to play in their exalted game. Or will it be a case of do what I say, not what I do.

David Kendall, Stafford Heights

● WATCHING the inept organisation on the field by the Broncos on Friday night, it is apparent that Darren Lockyer should be captain-coach.

Phillip Snowden, Noosaville

● WE recently moved house and have taken great care to be energy-efficient. We have high-efficiency lights in every room, the highest-efficiency refrigerator and dishwasher, we have installed solar hot water and no longer have airconditioning. But our electricity bill went up. Why am I feeling that heads should roll?

John Fleming, Scarborough

Thought for today

We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a

Assessing candidates

WYATT Roy, the Liberal candidate for Longman, is fresh out of a private school not in the electorate, has had ridiculously few life experiences and politics will be his first real job.

The Liberal Party is insulting the electorate's intelligence if they think that Roy can possibly stand up to experienced politicians and industry managers in order to promote Longman for developments and facilities.

Jessica Watson was also young when she took on the world. However, she had thousands of hours of experience and knew what she was doing.

Richard Day, Mountain Creek

I HAVE met Wyatt Roy. My wife and I were so impressed with this young man in what he wants to achieve that he has our vote.

We have some people in state and federal government now who have made very poor decisions of late and they are a lot older than 20. This is our money they have wasted. Because we are older doesn't necessarily make us smarter. I was 20 years of age once. I may be a little more wiser now but not smarter than some of our youth today.

Hugh M. Moffitt, Sandstone Point

I AM fed up with all the muck-slurping that accompanies every election. Six people are standing as candidates for Bowman. They expect votes but only one has



LONG FIGHT: One mine will continue to operate until 2027.

Case for federal action

PLACES of inspiration such as Stradbroke and Fraser islands are too precious to be sacrificed.

Both have inspired artists, poets and writers but both contain potential mineral wealth. A major difference is that whereas the federal government in 1976 decided that the inspirational values of Fraser Island should be preserved in perpetuity by banning the export of mineral sand, the future of Stradbroke has been left entirely in state hands.

The Queensland Government seems prepared to sacrifice so much of the landscape over the next 17 years to sand mining that by the time it ends the island will

have lost a landscape worth much more than all of the remaining minerals. Because so many places of inspiration, especially in southeast Queensland, have been lost by being dug up, built or paved over or modified in an irreparable way, the remaining natural areas increase in value.

Sand mining on Stradbroke needs to be stopped sooner rather than later. If the State Government won't stop the mining by refusing to renew the expired leases, the Federal Government should intervene to ban the export of Stradbroke's mineral sands, as it did on Fraser Island.

John Sinclair, Coorparoo