

Hopes hinge on aviation strategy

By **TONI MCRAE**

THE AVIATION strategy for the Fraser Coast, partly drafted by the council's consultant Mark Woodberry, went behind closed doors at Wednesday's council meeting.

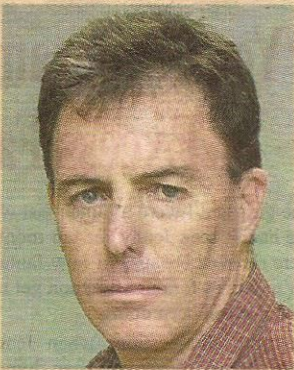
But councillor Gerard O'Connell is hopeful the plan will be passed and act as a driver into the council's overall economic strategy.

"I am also expecting that existing aviation operators at Maryborough Airport, like Col Miller of Maryborough Aviation Services, will have their leases expanded by the council in the next two to three and, at the very outside, six months," Mr O'Connell said.

"The council has rules and restrictions to adhere to under the Local Government Act so we have to put leases up for tender, even when people like Col are already in business at the airport.

"We want to see aviation businesses there and at Hervey Bay Airport really work but we have to follow procedure or ask the minister responsible for an exemption and that's not always guaranteed to happen."

Mr O'Connell said the new aviation strategy should be publicly released "in the next two to three weeks".



Gerard O'Connell is hopeful the aviation strategy will be passed.