

# Study looks at new way to process DAs

RESIDENTS living in the Rockdale Council area may be able to lodge their development applications for assessment with other councils if a feasibility study finds it is a viable option.

At last week's council meeting, following a motion put by councillor Gary Green, councillors resolved that a consultant carry out a report on the suggestion.

Cr Green, a Liberal councillor, said the proposal would increase competition and, as a consequence, the performance of the council would improve.

"I believe the monopoly councils have on services is unfair, inefficient and often ineffective," Cr Green said.

"The two choices ratepayers have are take it or leave it.

"The ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) would never condone this sort of practice in the private sector so why do we condone it in the public sector?"

He said by allowing people to lodge DAs at other councils, processing times and costs would be reduced and it would also eliminate possible bias by assessment officers.

"This provides a win-win all round as, when our staff are too busy, a neighbouring council can help reduce their workload and, consequently, reduce processing time and, thereby, costs," Cr Green said.