

Protect our view



Residents are concerned that the council's planting of tree seedlings across from Mary Cairncross Reserve will one day obscure the view over Glasshouse Mountains.

From little things big things grow – just ask a seedling

by STACEY ROBERTS

THE recent planting of seedlings across the road from Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve has led residents to become concerned about the view over Glasshouse Mountains

being obscured when the seedlings grow.

However, Sunshine Coast Regional Council natural areas program coordinator Dr Shirley Zipperlen said that the planting scheme used

to create a wildlife corridor in the area had been designed to ensure the view was not hidden.

"Shrubs have been planted at the top of the embankment, gradually increasing in size down the slope,"

she said "As the trees mature they will enhance the view to Glasshouse Mountains by providing a green screen that hides the house below.

"In addition, the tree roots will stabilise the embankment, reducing the

risk of a landslip." But life-long Maleny resident Desley Malone believes the planting will have deep consequences for the area.

"A wildlife corridor?" she says.

To Page 2

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'Corridor' irks residents

From Page 1

SURE, there's enough for a wildlife corridor, but what about the view? "Do you think they would plant trees on the rim of the Grand Canyon?"

"I think not.

"In five years time, when the trees have obscured the view, they'll be too big to cut down.

"The tourist industry will suffer to no end if that view is lost."

Dr Zipperlen said the seedlings were a native species that would link the Mary Cairncross Reserve

"As the trees mature they will enhance the view to Glasshouse Mountains by providing a green screen that hides the house below"

with the lowland plains of Glasshouse Mountains.

"Wildlife corridors connect fragments of habitat that would otherwise remain isolated, providing a crucial pathway for native animals and plants, enhancing seed dispersal and maintaining genetic diversity," she said.

"The creation of wildlife corri-

dors connecting Mary Cairncross with surrounding vegetation is a strategy that will help to ensure the long-term viability of the reserve.

"Council would like to acknowledge the generous support of the private landholders, opposite, who gave permission for the plantings on their property."