

# City to access gas grid

By CHRIS QUAGLIATA

TOWNSVILLE is set to be connected to the national gas grid after a major Central Queensland infrastructure project was given the green light.

Infrastructure Minister Paul Lucas announced in parliament that a 450km gas pipeline from Moranbah to Gladstone had been given the green light after an Environmental Impact Study.

"The proposed high-pressure pipeline has received sign-off from the Co-ordinator-General, meaning that the project can proceed subject to environmental conditions being met," he said.

Townsville Enterprise CEO Glenys Schuntner said it was good news for Townsville.

"That's good news for us because, through Moranbah (and the North Queensland gas pipeline), it will link Townsville into the national gas grid which we have not been a part of before," she said.

"That means there's greater

certainly of supply and there will be more competition in who can supply gas, which then leads to the opportunity for potentially some more competitive pricing of gas in the future."

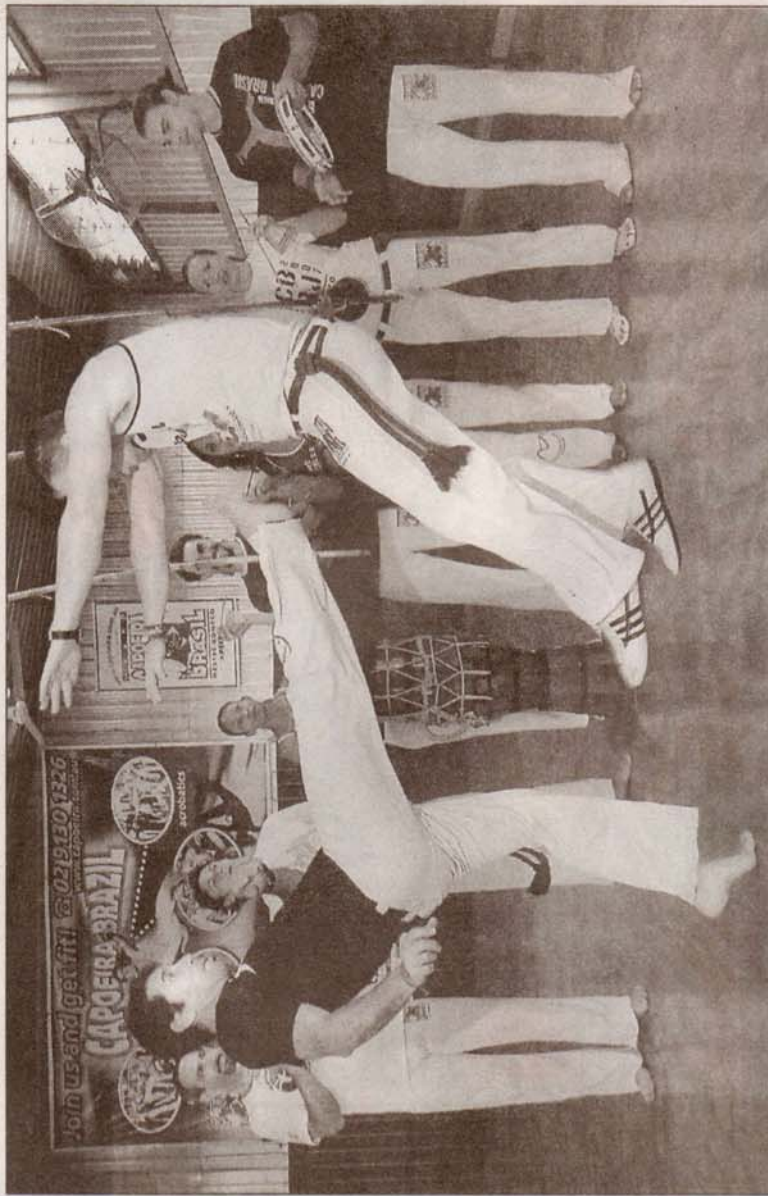
The pipeline, to be built by Queensland Government-owned corporation Enertrade, will cost between \$220 million and \$400 million dollars depending on the final pipe size chosen for the project.

Mr Lucas said environmental conditions called for compensation for the removal of about 3ha of scrubland along the pipeline easement.

"Other specific recommendations relate to soil erosion, air quality, water crossings, waste management, traffic, noise and social factors," he said.

He said the report would now go to the Federal Government for assessment of the project's impact on matters of national environmental significance.

"It is unlikely that the report will be considered before the new federal government is sworn in," he said.



HIGH FIVE ... Andre Centi and Matt Eales demonstrate Capoeira

Photo: DARREN HILDER

## Brazilian sport kicks up heels on Strand

THE Strand will rock to the beat of a new drum this weekend with Capoeira Brasil Townsville set to hold their biggest Batizado (grading) in their short history.

The fifth annual Batizado will highlight the ancient sport which is a fusion of martial arts, music, dance and acrobatics.

More than 80 participants from as young as five will put on a showcase of sight and sound at The Strand Amphitheatre from 11.30am-3.30pm tomorrow.

And Townsville's instructor and

Capoeira Brasil Townsville founder Matthew Eales (Uakari) said this year's Batizado would be the biggest and best yet.

"The fifth year is a big one, I never thought it would come around so fast," he said.

Capoeira Brasil's Australian head Mestre Peixe will fly from Sydney for the grading, along with special guests Contra-Mestre Meire Lou, Professora Potiguara and instructors Fominha and Aqua.

"It's going to be huge... we're

putting up mad tents and banners and we have guests from Sydney (including) our master Mestre Peixe," Mr Eales said.

"A couple of students are coming up from Sydney as well to support the event so we'll have about 14 guests coming.

"It's nationally recognised, it's a big event."

Spectators will be treated to a host of traditional Brazilian dances, songs and Capoeira performances throughout the day with the students to receive their gradings in between shows.