



Top Stories

Sunshine Coast Council ratifies McDonald's development rejection

Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia – The Sunshine Coast Regional Council has formally ratified the rejection of the 24 hour McDonald's in Minyama. The decision comes after council rejected the proposal earlier this week at a general committee meeting.

McDonald's forwarded an 11th hour compromise to deputy mayor Tim Dwyer in order to overturn the decision. The compromised had included reducing the opening hours to 6am to 10pm Sunday to Thursday and until 12am Friday and Saturday

Vodafone begins 3G activation, services in NSW fail

Customers of Vodafone Australia in New South Wales, Australia have had issues with their service today as Vodafone activates its 3G network. Customers in NSW have had intermittent issues since 8:00 AM AEDT (2100 UTC). At 7:30 PM, Vodafone was yet to advise an ETA on a resolution.

Customers report a range of issues such as intermittent loss of reception, voice calls where no voice can be heard and the inability to access mobile internet and picture messaging.

Wikipedia Current Events

Dec 3: The Old Perth Fire Station is permanently listed on the Western Australian Heritage register.

150 beached whales die

Approximately 150 whales have died after being beached in a remote coastal area of Australia's Tasmania island state. They were discovered on Saturday. Many of the whales had been badly cut by jagged rocks lying on the shore.

Rescuers managed to save a pod of thirty whales that were trapped in shallow reefs by shepherding them out to the open sea by boat.

Last week another 60 whales were also stranded on another part of the island.

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Ahmed Mazloum, a spokesman for Vodafone, told Wikinews that the

issues have been caused by the activation of Vodafone's 3G network.

"We have commenced switching on 3G on the network and this has caused an unforeseen issue with around ninety percent of the network in New South Wales," said Mazloum.

"We are aware customers may be frustrated with their lack of service, but they can be assured that Vodafone will be working around the clock until services are returned to normal."

In December 2007, it was revealed that Vodafone would commence a program to rollout 3G to 95% of the Australian population by December 2008. Vodafone's current 3G network is only active in capital cities and its 2G network covers 93% of the Australian population.

Minyama residents promise to keep fighting to stop McDonald's development

Residents in Minyama, on Queensland, Australia's Sunshine Coast, have vowed to keep fighting the development of a 24-hour McDonald's on Nicklin Way. Last week, Sunshine Coast Regional Council officers recommended that construction be given the go ahead.

Councillor Chris Thompson, who represents Division 4 in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, has said that he will recommend

that it be rejected at the general committee meeting.

"I'm pretty sure I'm the only councillor who already has a 24-hour McDonald's in my division," Councillor Thompson said, "we have enough issues with that one, and this is overkill."

The 24-hour McDonald's in Councillor Thompson's division, in Mooloolaba, is part of a larger complex and does not back onto residential premises.

"I would have thought that the anti-social elements in society do not observe fixed days and hours," protest group spokesman John Meyer-Gleaves said.

"And council says the problem associated with increased vehicle noise has been addressed by stating that parking will be in the front of the building.

"But all [drive-through] traffic goes around the back of the building and will impact on the residents of Chelsea Crescent."

Local member of federal parliament Peter Slipper was emailed for comment but has yet to reply.

Local council in Australia rejects McDonald's development plan

The development application for a McDonald's restaurant at Minyama, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast in Australia, has been rejected by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

"We knocked back a Hungry Jack's on Nicklin Way because of the nuisance code," said divisional councillor Chris Thompson. "We already have a 24-hour McDonald's at Mooloolaba, only

one kilometre away, and there are already [anti-social] issues at that site."

Local residents previously vowed to fight any McDonald's development at the proposed site due to the risk of anti-social behavior. Protest group spokesman John Meyer-Gleaves was "over the moon".

"It's not often you knock Maccas [McDonald's] over," he said.

Mayor Bob Abbot said Minyama was in some ways more suitable than Mooloolaba. However, he was concerned about the proximity to a residential estate.

The rejection is expected to be ratified at an ordinary meeting of the council on Thursday.

"It needs to be endorsed or ratified by council at its ordinary meeting on Thursday and then it will become a statutory decision of council," Chris Thompson said. "I'm reasonably pleased with the outcome."

British Airways considers possible merger with Qantas

British Airways, the flag carrier of the United Kingdom, has stated that it is considering a possible merger with the Australian airline Qantas Airways.

In a statement, British Airways said that, if done, the merger will create a dual-listed company in London and Australia. It also added that there was "no guarantee that any transaction will be forthcoming."

Shares in British Airways rose 14% higher after the news on Tuesday. Qantas shares rose as much as 9.3 percent on Wednesday

Trivia

Did you know...

- ... that Jordan Rankin, at 16 years and 238 days, is the youngest player to make his first-grade debut in Australian rugby league in over 70 years?
- ... that Reg Lindsay was a Australian Country and Western singer who won three Golden Guitars Awards and wrote more than five hundred songs in his fifty year music career?
- ... that the murder of Celia Douty was the first murder in Australia to be solved using DNA profiling, after remaining unsolved for 18 years?
- ...that Indigenous Australian activist Michael Mansell convinced Lybian leader Muammar al-Gaddafi to officially recognise a separate Aboriginal Australian passport in order to draw international attention to the issue of native land rights?
- ...that Wally Koochew was the first VFL player of Chinese background?
- ...that Wing Commander Stanley Goble and Flying Officer Ivor McIntyre, piloting a single-engined seaplane (pictured), became the first men to circumnavigate Australia by air in 1924?
- ...that a series of storms in south-east Queensland spawned two of the most powerful supercells and tornadoes in recorded Australian history?
- ...that the lamington cake is believed to have been named after Charles Cochrane-Baillie, 2nd Baron Lamington, the Governor of

Queensland at the time of its invention?

- ...that during the first seven years of the Australian edition of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? nobody won the top prize of one million dollars?
- ...that in New South Wales, a Sentencing Council which is the first of its type in Australia, conducts research to improve the consistency of sentencing of criminals?

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