



WORKERS UNITE

700 pack Panthers
for protest

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RUGBY LEAGUE

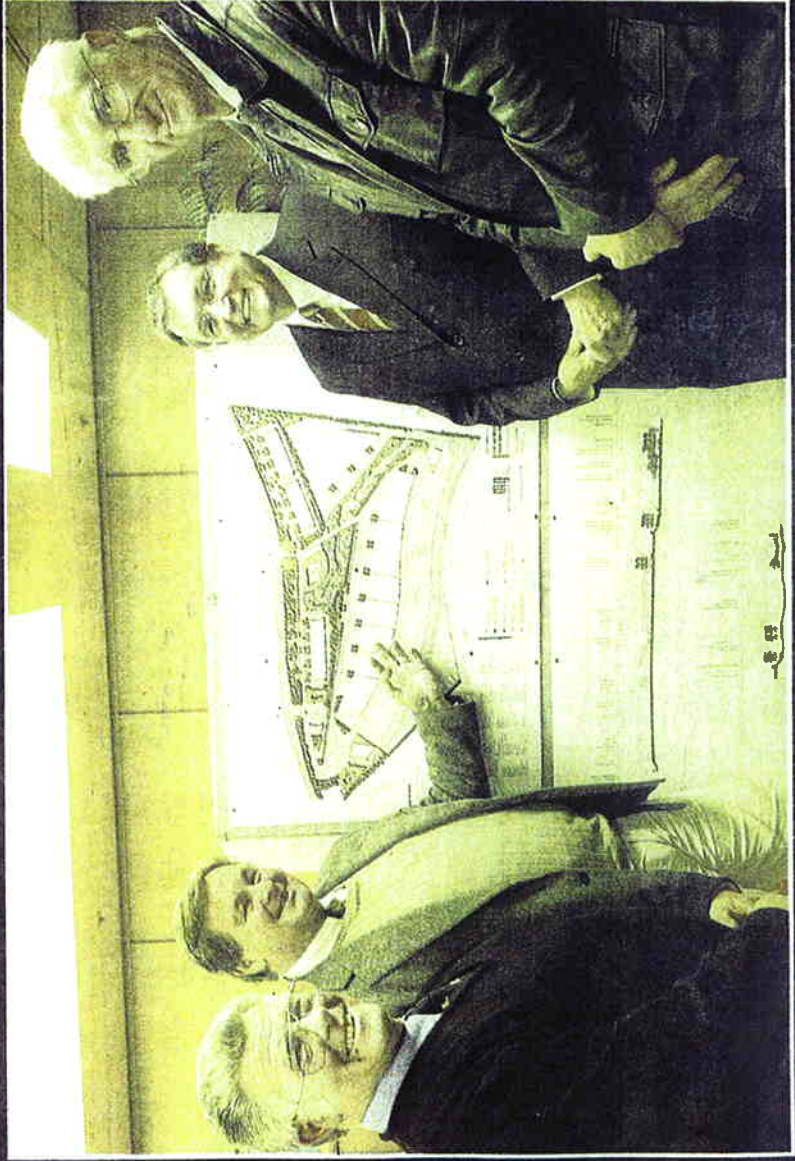
Bubba's like
a fine wine

SPORT



300 JOBS

\$100m freight terminal to boost local economy



FUTURE OF FREIGHT: Mayor Norm Mann, developers Gary Sloane and Bruce Bolam, and MP Gerard Martin were celebrating yesterday after the announcement of a \$100 million freight terminal for Bathurst. Photo: PHILL MURRAY.

By PETER VENESS

THREE hundred permanent jobs will be created by a \$100 million road-rail freight terminal to be built at Kelso.

The announcement was made at Bathurst Regional Council chambers yesterday and was warmly welcomed by both mayor Norm Mann and state MP Gerard Martin.

The terminal, to be built by Slobobax Pty Ltd, has been classified as a development of state significance - this means planning approval has been handed over to planning minister Craig Knowles.

Slobobax is a consortium of Bathurst entrepreneurs Bruce Bolam and Gary Sloane and John Baxter, of Sydney-based Abax Contracting.

Mr Sloane said the idea first came three years ago.

"We've been adding bits and pieces and refining the idea until we reached what we have here today," he said.

The developers hope to turn the first sod in January.

The terminal will include a quarantine site which will allow Bathurst to act as an export centre.

Goods can be put on a train from the quarantined area of the terminal and be loaded directly on to a ship at Botany Bay for export.

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