

NEWS

Impact study hits city streets

CARTING THE CLIMATE

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RESEARCHERS are taking to city streets during the next year to collect weather data that will assist architects, urban designers and building designers to make future cities more livable.

Using a purpose-built weather cart, researchers will measure micro-climates in the CBD throughout the day for a week at a time.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman said the completed research, conducted by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), would fill a void in CBD-specific weather data.

"The information being collected by the Construction Innovation researchers is essential to gauge the impact of modern construction on climate and will provide valuable information for the future planning of sustainable urban areas," Cr Newman said.

"Brisbane is growing rapidly and without careful planning, we run the risk of creating

an 'Urban Heat Island', with high temperatures and increased greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

"Much of the data currently available about Brisbane was collected at the airport, 20 km away, so it's not an accurate measure of climate in the CBD."

The weather cart which has been purpose built and programmed by QUT for this project, will be complemented by a fixed data recorder which will record air temperature, solar radiation, humidity, rainfall and airflow (and its direction) for 12 months.

"The climate data will be used to develop a 3D computer modelling tool that architects and town planners can use to assess the impact a new building will have on sunlight, air movement, rain exposure, temperature and relative humidity for it and the surrounding area," Cr Newman said.



DESIGN OF THE TIMES: Climate statistics will help shape the city's built environment.