

# Engineers create centre of excellence

**INNOVATIVE** Innisfail firm IBS Engineering Supplies is on the move to new premises it hopes will give it greater scope for groundbreaking work.

IBS, which opened in 1979, is moving to a site in Palmerston Drive managing director Bill Seawright has had his eye on for more than a decade.

Despite having his sights on the land for some time, Mother Nature has intervened three times, delaying plans.

In 1986 IBS lost \$30,000 of stock in Cyclone Winifred and in 1999 the loss of stock in flooding totalled \$100,000.

Two years ago it was Cyclone Larry which hit the business, resulting in more than \$130,000 damage to equipment and machinery and the loss of \$50,000 worth of stock.

Now the move is set for completion by July.

Mr Seawright said the move would double the company's floorspace and allow it to increase its product range.

IBS has long been recognised as an innovator, winning awards in the engineering industry.

One of its success stories was the manufacture of a conveyor system for the Australian Banana Company which allowed it break daily output records.

Another innovation indicator has been the development of the Ozzy Bulldog power ladders that are being exported to Taiwan and Hawaii.

Mr Seawright is confident the move will enable the company to do more innovative work and develop as a centre for engineering innovation.



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**Success story:** IBS managing director Bill Seawright (left) and workshop supervisor Alex Seawright with plans for the IBS Centre of Engineering Innovation building in Innisfail.