

# PRIME SITE

**Making a bang:** Auctions are hammering out results **P84** **Standing tall:** South Brisbane is beco

## Blow to building studies

### New surveyors 'lack skills'

Phil Bartsch

QUEENSLAND'S struggling construction industry is facing another blow, with a new report exposing inadequate training of quantity surveyors to cope with the growing complexity of new building projects.

The report found that university courses nationally were failing to provide qualifications for an ever-widening range of quantity surveying services.

It revealed that graduates were being armed with an insufficient level of core skills.

The study was commissioned by the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors after a rise in complaints about slipping graduate standards, as well as a lack of practical training.

The in-depth study was undertaken by Rider Levett Bucknall and Bond University.

It covered 45 employers, 200 employees and 24 universities and colleges.

AIQS national president Trevor Sanders said the industry was facing a substantial shortage of suitably qualified quantity surveyors because of ill-equipped graduates.

"We are facing a significantly

depleted local workforce as more universities slowly merge the quantity surveying course with others courses purely as a cost-cutting measure," he said.

Mr Sanders said closer co-operation between education providers and the profession was needed to address the increasing concerns.

"It is all well and good for the Federal Government to be mandating that we build more 'green buildings', but it won't work if we have no one who is able to work out how much they cost or what the expected life cycle and operating costs will be," he said.

Mr Sanders said as construction projects grow in complexity and size many quantity surveyors had diversified into providing project and building management services.

Head of QUT's School of Urban Development, Professor Stephen Kajewski said the university had no plans to change its current courses.

"The latest graduation destination survey shows a very high employment of students graduating from this QUT course and is one indication of employer satisfaction," he said.

## Queen St address proves



**OFF-MARKET TRANSACTION:** Michael Gard and Brenton Hebrard of Raine & H outside the office building sold for more than \$8 million. **Picture:** Peter