

# Town offers land anyone can afford

## A new life – all for \$1.10

Lauren Novak

CHEAP available land is hard to find, but in a small Eyre Peninsula town they're giving it away.

In a bid to promote growth in Wudinna, 220km west of Whyalla, Le Hunte Council is offering three land allotments to anyone who wants them – for just \$1.10, including GST.

The only condition is the new owners must build a house on the land within 12 months.

The three vacant

blocks on Heath St are part of a group of seven, four of which were sold earlier in the year.

The blocks have kerbing, are paved and connected to a sewage disposal system, water and electricity at a cost to the council of up to \$20,000 each.

Council chairman Tim Scholz said each block was valued between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

"We were going to sell them as residential blocks but now they are '\$1 blocks'," he said.

Mr Scholz said the council had successfully offered a number of plots

of land five years ago.

"There are now young families with kids in most of them," he said.

Council chief executive officer Alan McGuire said Wudinna's population was about 650.

"There tends to be a threshold whereby you're community loses viability if there is insufficient population," he said. "We're trying to primarily encourage new couples and families to town and new housing."

"We hope to encourage new trades, people with skills."

Wudinna single mother Kerri Spriggs, 23, se-

cured one of the four recently sold allotments and encouraged anyone considering applying for the land to "go for it".

"You can't go wrong," she said. "To buy a block around here might cost you \$10,000 so that's money you can save and spend on your house."

Ms Spriggs is living in a rental property with eight-month-old daughter Taeha Mae while she saves to start building her new home.

After living in Port Lincoln and Ceduna, she decided to return to her childhood home town.

"It is such a great op-

portunity for me, I jumped at the chance," she said.

Ms Spriggs said Wudinna was a "clean, comfortable" place to live where there were lots of young families and "you feel safe".

Application forms which set out the terms of arrangement for a block are available from the District Council Office, Burton Tce, PO Box 6, Wudinna, 5652, or by phoning 8680 2002 or faxing 8680 2296.

Applications must be received by 5pm on Friday, March 16.

### FIVE REASONS TO MOVE TO WUDINNA

**1** TO start a family – the town has recently welcomed a number of young families and locals say it is a safe and quiet community.

**2** TO play sport – facilities include a swimming pool, oval, bowling green, tennis courts, gymnasium and squash court.

**3** WARM weather – temperatures are regularly in the high 30s.

**4** TO study – a TAFE campus is located in the town.

**5** TO start your own business – the local council is looking for new residents with skills.



**WHAT A BARGAIN:** Kerri Spriggs and daughter Taeha Mae on the block of land she bought for \$1.10. Picture: Leanne Bertram