



**BUILDING A BUSINESS:** Pearls MiiHome Managing director Mark Winfield and CEO Troy Bingham at their warehouse in Coomera yesterday. Picture: Jono Searle

## Instant homes just popping up all over

SOPHIE FOSTER

WHEN the Australian dollar dropped to an 11-month low against the US currency yesterday, Gold Coast manufacturer Mark Winfield was too busy rolling out a monumental delivery of "Transformer-type" buildings to notice.

Pearls MiiHome's Coomera factory yesterday loaded the first seven of 13 fully automated, rapidly deployed, transportable buildings - called Morphouses - on to the back of ICRG Logistics trucks. Their destination was 63 hours driving and 5660 kilometres away, at Rio Tinto's Marandoo mining camp in Western Australia.

Like a child's dream become reality, the buildings

### THE TRIP

+ 5660km journey from Pearls MiiHome Coomera factory on the Gold Coast to Rio Tinto's Marandoo mining camp in far north west of Western Australia

### THE CARGO

+ 13 Morphouses which each contain eight self-contained rooms

### THE CONVOY

+ 13 Semi trailer trucks, the first seven of which set off yesterday

come in the form of containers which fit on to a site prepped with sewer, water and electricity points - and then they power themselves open into their final shape, three times the container size.



**MOBILE HOME:** Instant homes on their way to customers.

"The buildings will be lifted off the truck, they'll fit straight on to their concrete block, as well as a corner casting lever that they sit on," Mr Winfield said.

"You flick the lever around

and they become cyclone proof structures. Then you press a button and they open out remotely. They have all their own motors to power themselves open like a bit of a "Transformer" to an eight

bedroom motel unit." The 13 Morphouses built by Pearls MiiHome's 150 staff will provide a 96-person accommodation extension for Rio within a few hours of arriving at Marandoo.

The firm, which runs three factories producing primary products for its buildings, also builds Aboriginal housing, homes in mining towns and post-disaster housing.

Now the Australian-made products have caught the attention of the Indian government, with the firm building police force housing there. A fall in the Australian dollar "would be good for us", Mr Winfield said.

"It's been a bit high, it hasn't helped Australian exports, so if it came down a bit that would help things."