

Council to make call on tower

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A PROPOSED 12-storey apartment tower with views over the Cairns Esplanade is about to meet its fate.

Developers Michael and John Deeb will learn tomorrow whether Cairns Regional Council will approve their 41m-tall residential unit complex proposal.

The vacant block nestled between the historic Floriana Villas guesthouse and the Pelican House mansion on the Esplanade is one of the most prized pieces of land in the city.

It has been on the Deeb's books for years, but the \$510,000 purchase late last year of a run-down old house at 200 Lake St meant their initial development plans could be significantly scaled up.

The brothers already had approvals to construct a luxurious four-storey house on the land, but have since scaled it up to its current 12-storey proposal.

The demolition of the 200 Lake St property will mean the complex would have dual road access, allowing a driveway to be kept off the Esplanade despite the skinny block of land's size and shape.

There was a mixed reaction to the development when the *Cairns Post* revealed the plans in February, with some residents arguing it should not be allowed to go ahead due to its



DECISION TIME: An artist's impression of the apartments.

obstruction of views.

However the application before the council argues it is similar in nature to other nearby buildings and will not present as a "wall of buildings" when viewed from the mountains, ocean, Esplanade or Trinity Inlet.

The proposal includes 22 apartments built over 12 storeys for "permanent, high-end living", with the top two storeys set aside for a couple of opulent four-bedroom penthouses.

The building's designers, CA Architects, said the property was "one of the few remaining Esplanade sites and boasts uninterrupted views of the ocean and mountains".

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