

Hostel almost ready

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Rattle n' Hum backpackers to unveil new look

ONE of Cairns' most enduring backpacker bars and accommodation sites will unveil its new-look hostel within weeks.

But you won't have to wait as long to have a drink in Rattle n' Hum on Cairns Esplanade with a renovated watering hole reopening on Friday night.

The refurbished, budget rooms will be open to guests from the first week of June.

Owner Jon Hasler said the works, which began more than

two years ago, had transformed the building into "one of the best looking on the block".

"Rattle n' Hum will have a whole new beer garden, the front is being done at the moment," he said.

"It'll be good for the next 20 years now, it'll be worth it.

"We've got new authentic timber floors, which have been polished.

"We're now just waiting for the fire brigade to do their in-

spection and we'll get all that cleared by builders."

The project was delayed after a stop-work order was issued to the developers of the 65-69 The Esplanade site in mid-2018 by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, who feared a Childers-style fire.

Work on the old Global Backpackers Hostel began again in January this year.

A QFES spokeswoman said the department gave the 60-

year-old building a compliant assessment report in September, following a submission from developer Red Rock Leisure of proposed fire management and protection systems at the site.

A refreshed, modern design of the backpacker rooms features planter boxes with vines making their way up balustrades.

"It's a flashpackers, a term which I don't like, it's budget, which I don't like, either way,

it's top notch," Mr Hasler said.

"We needed it. Now I think it's one of the best looking on the block."

The developer was initially granted Cairns Regional Council approval in November 2016 to renovate the hostel, providing 176 beds in 42 rooms across three storeys.

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WINNING SLICE

The Rattle n' Hum eatery was recently listed ninth in *Cairns Post's* top 10 best pizza places thanks to its large wood-fired pizzas in a range of flavours including classic Hawaiian, pepperoni and tropical FNQ. The original development application was amended to include a fourth storey with a 'Skybar' in the communal area for the exclusive service of beverages to overnight guests but those plans were later scrapped.