

Backing for city tower designs

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CONSTRUCTION of a 14-storey residential tower approved for the Esplanade will not take place straight away, but the developer behind the 22-unit project says he is grateful Cairns Regional Council has backed the plans.

The council's chief executive, John Andrejic, decided to endorse recommendations for the development at 191 and 193 the Esplanade and 200 Lake St at a general meeting yesterday.

Unity Team members Mayor Bob Manning, Cr John Schilling, Cr Terry James, Cr Richie Bates, Cr Max O'Halloran, Cr Jessie Richardson and Cr Brett Moller declared a conflict of interest in the application after the political party received a donation of \$500 in 2016 from Brazier Motti, a consultant to the applicant.

Developer Michael Deeb said the decision was "good news" but could not say when work would start on the project.

"We've got to look at building costs and the current market. There's a Federal Election coming up which might affect things," he said.

"We need to sit down with

the consultants and revise the plans, but I think it's good news. It is wonderful the council has agreed for this building to be built.

"It is a residential building, not a hotel, and aimed at those wanting to live on the Esplanade.

"We would very much like to see it come to fruition, hopefully very soon."

A spokeswoman for Floriana Guest House, next door to the proposed site, said the decision was a sad one but "if it's got to be done, it's got to be done".

The 35-year-old accommodation business is for sale and the spokeswoman said there was interest in the property.

"I love it because it's quiet. It's going to change this part of the Esplanade," she said.

The approval will remain valid for six years.

With a total site area of 1209sq m, the development plans include 20 three-bedroom and two four-bedroom units, 33 car parks and 200sq m of communal open space for resident use, as well as a pool.

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