

Hotel set to go up in 2019

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A LUXURY 76-room hotel with a rooftop bar over the busiest McDonald's restaurant in Cairns has the thumbs up to start construction next year.

Esplanade Central developers Adams Motor Group owners Adam and Katrina Adams and Paul and Kim Kelly of Kelly Developments bought the property for \$8.75 million in 2016.

Their plans for the prime site at the corner of the Esplanade and Shields St has undergone several changes over the intervening years – first a 223-bed “flashpacker” hostel was pegged for the site, then a five-storey building with a 60-room hotel.

The most recent plan is anticipated to be the final one with the developers hoping to start building early in 2019.

Cairns Regional Council chief executive John Andrejic yesterday approved the new

design after being delegated authority due to the Unity Team councillors declaring a conflict of interest after a \$5000 donation in 2016 from CA Architects, which worked on the project.

It means the developers can now add a sixth storey with an additional 16 bedrooms to their hotel.

Mr Adams has previously said he intended to create a “very sharp” four to 4.5-star hotel with sweeping views over the ocean to Green Island, and be trading by November next year.

The construction side of the project is expected to cost more than \$10 million.

The development will coincide with the opening of Crystalbrook Collection's \$120 million Flynn hotel not far down the Esplanade on the site of the former Bellview Hotel.

Current tenants including McDonald's and Night Owl will stay on the ground floor.