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Fun park put on hold

Covid and insurance issues stall planned development

A PROPOSED jet boat and adventure park planned for the northern beaches has been stymied by COVID and insurance issues.

The Machans Beach development planned by business owner John Madderom had been approved by Cairns Regional Council in 2016 but has since stalled.

"I don't see anything happening out there," Mr Madderom said.

The planned attraction would have included a three section park divided into motorised buggy tracks, a jet boat run and electric trikes.

The international border closure meant that a massive potential market for the park dried up overnight and then came another body blow.

"About six months ago Lloyds of London cancelled amusement park insurance," Mr Madderom said.

"I've got rides and they are just sitting there."

The Australian Amusement Leisure and Recreational

Association has called on ride operators to take action and complete a survey intended for a feasibility study by insurance company Aon.

"The amusement, attractions, leisure and recreation industries are facing the catastrophic consequence of absolute insurance market failure, with the last insurance company leaving our industry some months ago," a AALARA statement announced.

"AALARA has entered into a partnership with Aon to establish an industryowned and operated discretionary mutual fund for the benefit of members."

Mr Madderom said he was unlikely to progress the park until the international borders were reopened.

"People don't feel safe to travel," he said.

In June last year, Mr Madderom successfully applied to extend his development approval for the park until 2026.

"Unfortunately, due to the slow market conditions experienced by the Cairns region in recent years and with the current economic climate recently caused by COVID-19, the applicant has not been in a position to finalise

and commence the new use," the application stated.

But Council has only approved the application until July.

Mr Madderom said he was considering applying to council to hold events at the site but no progress was likely before September.

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