



SHOWTIME FOR BIG PLAN

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A DETAILED masterplan for the \$450 million redevelopment of Cardwell's troubled Port Hinchinbrook will be revealed next month. It comes as The Passage Holdings, an Australian company with links to the US, appointed American David Haubert chief executive. "There is a real desire on the part of The Passage Holdings, the council and the local community to move forward with this project which will breathe new life and economic vitality into the Hinchinbrook region," said Mr Haubert, who is also Mayor of Dublin, California. "With settlement complete and key personnel and consultants appointed, we are now in a position to unveil our masterplan and vision for the development. This is a major and positive milestone for Hinchinbrook Harbour which has suffered the economic effects of the global financial crisis and impact of cyclone Yasi in 2011."

As chief executive Mr Haubert will lead the roll out of the development masterplan as well as overseeing the restoration of the marina, marine village and dredging of the canal and harbour. The resort, which went into liquidation after the collapse of Williams Corporation in 2013, will also be re-branded to Hinchinbrook Harbour. While full details of the masterplan are yet to be revealed, the resort will include a \$45 million international fishing village, a new marina, a family resort, a water theme park, a 300-site motorhome park, camp grounds and back-packer accommodation, plus waterfront residential lots and homes.

Despite Port Hinchinbrook's chequered past, Cassowary Coast Division 1 councillor Glenn Raleigh said the majority of locals were up-beat about the new ownership. "It has been a long time coming. People have been suffering since before Yasi," Mr Raleigh said. "Now the liquidator has settled with The Passage Holdings we're expecting enthusiasm around town to grow."

Mr Raleigh said the dredging of the marina and access channel was his top priority. To date The Passage Holdings have spent more than \$4 million on restoring and up-grading Port Hinchinbrook.

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