



RESORT PLAN TAKES FLIGHT

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Tourists visiting Hinchinbrook Harbour could be flown directly into Cardwell with plans for an airport and terminal in the pipeline.

The developers behind the \$450 million planned transformation of Port Hinchinbrook Resort, rebranded Hinchinbrook Harbour, are considering redeveloping the Dallachy Aerodrome, north of Cardwell.

Place Projects real estate agent Bruce Goddard said an airport would be some years away as they planned to build accommodation before building the airport and terminal.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council would also have to sign off on the project.

“By the time we have the hotels the desire is to upgrade the terminal and develop the airport,” Mr Goddard said. “There is ample space for an airport of a considerable size.”

He said the airport would be able to accommodate a 35-seater aircraft. Division councillor Glenn Raleigh said the council was open to developing the aerodrome but it had not received any applications.

“The first time we were made aware of this was when they presented their master-plan for Hinchinbrook Harbour and there was an attachment that showed the Dallachy Aerodrome was going to be redeveloped,” Cr Raleigh said. “We haven’t had any application or any formal talks with them regarding that yet.”

“We are very open to what they want to do in the region but, as with any facility like an aerodrome, it would have to be masterplanned.”

The first stage of the Hinchinbrook Harbour development will be the marina, including 12 waterfront villas. Construction will start next year with plans revealed for two-storey, three-bedroom, high-end villas. The villas would include a garage, plunge pool and over water decks.

The waterfront restaurant is expected to be open by Christ-mas and run as a BYO establishment before a liquor licence is granted, which is expected early next year.

The redevelopment will include a resort, water park, international fishing village, backpacker accommodation, caravan park and new marina. Dredging of the clogged marina is expected to start in February.