

# Backpackers, restaurant, shops, childcare and motel



Cable skiing will be the newest sport in Mackay after the council gave preliminary approval for the giant complex, which will include a motel and backpacker resort, to be built in Beaconsfield.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

# Water sports right for low-lying land

By **OWEN JACQUES**  
owen.jacques@dailymercury.com.au

THE council has found the perfect way to deal with land that traditionally goes underwater during heavy rain.

They will build two lakes there and turn it into a water sports park.

Known as 'Andergrove Lakes', the area on the corner of Cutler Drive and Beaconsfield Road and towards Glenpark Street, will have one lake for

novice skiers and another for the more advanced.

This will allow Mackay people to jump on the water without buying a speedboat.

Cable skiing works by having a large steel mechanism above the lake connected to a cord for the skier.

As the skier is pulled around by the cord, they can tackle jumps, obstacles, or just learn to stand up on the skis or wakeboard.

The giant facility is planned to be built on more than 36 hectares, and feature a backpackers resort, restaurant, shops, childcare centre and motel.

The preliminary application was approved by Mackay Regional Council yesterday, and Councillor Dave Perkins said it was a "bloody fantastic" thing for the region.

He said there would be new residential areas built that would surround the

waterpark, and those buyers would be completely aware of the upcoming development.

"As long as it's developed in such a way to protect the residents from noise," Cr Perkins said.

"For me, this could be the next big catalyst to bring people into Mackay."

He said the low-lying land from behind Whit-sunday Anglican School, to the Norris Road intersection, was often prone to flooding, and it

was a relief to have a project that would actually benefit from heavy rain.

"It's a great outcome," he said.

"In terms of capturing water, it will be great for the area. For council, it's a good outcome for land that you would have to be very careful with.

"You worry about what could have gone in there."

There was no construction timeline because the approval process was in its early stage.