Tower project war on cards

Gold Coast Bridge Club to fight Groco

KATELEEN QUIRE
HOMES EDITOR

The Gold Coast's oldest community group is in the fight of its life against contentious construction plans for Groco, which is planning a 30-storey tower next to the clubhouse.

The esteemed builder of the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village has designed a 50-apartment building in Old Burleigh Rd at Surfers Paradise, across the road from the mammoth state development and eight storey tower in the Gold Coast Bridge Club. Bridge players say their games would be ruined by the noise and a lack of parking would cruel the 400-strong membership base which currently makes up part of the development site's atmosphere parking.

Groco submitted a development application in August for the site, which is expropriated and currently houses an exhibition, and in October created a new company for it called Groco Old Burleigh Rd Developer Pty Ltd. The tower will effectively be constructed above the exchange under a deal which Telesco yesterday decided to discontinue.

Bridge club president Philip Roberts said construction and noise would destroy their beloved game.

"It's a game of significant concentration, you've got to follow cards of every suit and remember who's been played," he said.

"Noise would be a night mare, our members would have to play somewhere else, such is their passion for the game."

"The request would be huge, because of the height of the building, noise of construction and loss of parking facilities that we enjoy at the moment."

"Only about five of our members currently travel by train. They feel more secure playing here."

In September, members were preparing for a landmark event in February, when the 2018 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships comes to the Gold Coast. Mr Roberts said the club meant more to its members than a single hobby.

Lotto
Powerball: 31 41 43 46 52 58 59
$120,612,000
Prize pool: $40,000,000
Div 1 First Division: 8
Div 2 Second Division: 2
Div 3 Third Division: 4
Div 4 Fourth Division: 2
Div 5 Fifth Division: 0
Div 6 Sixth Division: 0
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'No choice' but to go to committee on build

LONGTIME Coolangatta residents are furious a contentious development application is set to be approved just days before Christmas.

The Queen Street townhouse project has received gold-plated planning committee approval, and will now go before the council's planning committee. Instead it will be considered by a special delegation committee made up of Mayor Tom Tate, Deputy Mayor Donna Jones, planning chief Cici Cameron, and chief executive Dale Dickson.

"It is tough for the site to be proposed for and would dominate the town," she said.

Mr Eldridge said the project site would comply with the City Plan.

"However, the council can't say the city had no choice but to make an informal decision before Christmas," he said.

Councillor Neil O'Neill said the matter would be taken up for the council to make a final decision before Christmas.

"I am very disappointed that the council is going to make this decision before Christmas," she said.

"I have my local views known, but the council can only make a decision before Christmas."
Coolangatta residents hope tourists will join in protest

SOUTHERN Gold Coast want tourists to join them as they launch a major rally and protest from their balconies over a tower development.

The body corporate at Coolangatta’s Linder Apartments, opposite the beach at Greenmount, has appealed against a decision by the Gold Coast City Council to approve the 27-storey Salmon Lagoon development.

Residents are building a banner to fight against the development and would like the council to stop the development.

They have put up a banner on the sailing club and on their balconies with the words “Stop the development”.

The council received more than 30 objections but in May approved the 100-room and 54-apartment hotel because it would establish the area as a major tourism centre.

The council was under pressure from the state government to approve the development.

The residents hope the council will change its mind and listen to the protest from the council’s own members.

The council has said it will not change its mind.

The residents have also been told by the council that the decision is final and cannot be changed.

The protest will be held in front of the council chamber.

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