

Dunk Island overhaul

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190 extra rooms proposed

By Lea Guy

DUNK Island will undergo a 15-year staged overhaul to upgrade tourist facilities.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council has granted preliminary approval to Greengate Property Group to proceed with plans for the major upgrade, which includes 190 additional accommodation rooms and villas and a new sewerage treatment plant.

The accommodation floorspace will be doubled and will cater for an extra 60,000 guests a year and increase employment on the island by an estimated 30 staff members a day.

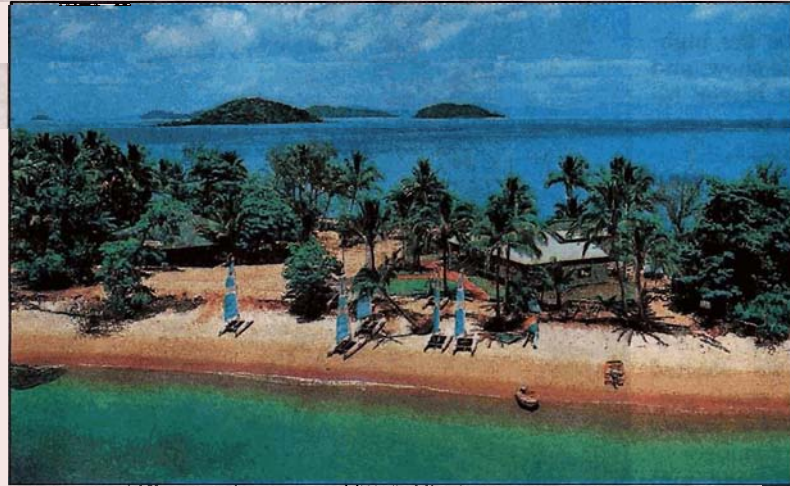
Stage 1 will involve redevelop-

ment of the existing resort and work on new accommodation to start in Stage 2, along with upgrades to infrastructure such as sewerage and the airstrip.

Upgrades will continue in Stages 3 and 4.

With the heavily used Dunk Island Jetty in need of major repairs or replacement, the developer will be asked to contribute a once-off payment of at least \$175,000, which is based on 70 per cent of an estimated \$250,000 repair bill.

At Thursday's council meeting, councillors argued that the cost had not been confirmed and could



FACELIFT: Facilities on Dunk Island will be upgraded.

be much higher than initial estimates. **\$500,000**, but you can't put an open-ended condition on a developer," CCRC's planning director John Pettigrew said.

"There have been various figures mentioned, from \$200,000 to