

Marina plan ^{IA} ^{2/09/09} runs aground with council

By Lea Guy

A REQUEST by a developer for Cassowary Coast Regional Council to prepare a Land Management Plan (LMP) for Bingil Bay has been rejected.

Mission Beach Harbour Pty Ltd needs the LMP in place before it can apply for a trustee lease over an area of reserve, with the intention of building a commercial marina.

But planning manager Aletta Nugent said an LMP could become a waste of time and money, as it was unlikely the company would obtain a trustee lease.

"It might be an expensive and lengthy process and when we

get to the end, it could be a waste of everyone's time," she told council.

Ms Nugent said the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) had indicated it would not approve a trustee lease for the proposed development.

"The development could be considered to be an inappropriate use for the purpose and qualities of the trust land and is also considered to be substantially exclusive and commercial in nature," she said.

Mission Beach Harbour Pty Ltd proposed to build a tourist and marine facility incorporating a 3.96ha man-made island with apartments and com-

mercial facilities, and a 172-berth marina.

Mayor Bill Shannon said he supported a push for improved marine facilities in the Mission Beach area but caution was needed in determining appropriate development.

"We need a facility between Port Hinchinbrook and Mourilyan," Cr Shannon said.

"Something needs to happen there but this is bigger than people want it to be.

With an LMP to cost anywhere up to \$100,000, Cr Shannon suggested Mission Beach Harbour Pty Ltd fund the plan itself if it intends to further proceed with its application for a trustee lease.