

BEACH 'BULLIED'

By Michael Thompson

MISSION Beach is being bullied by Cassowary Coast Regional Council into accepting a watered down proposal for the town's pool, a resident says.

Mission Beach Aquatic and Recreation Club member George Graham says council is using the "excuse" that it cannot afford to

maintain a bigger pool and risked losing State Government funding if it chose to build a 50m pool.

But Cassowary Coast Mayor Bill Shannon said it would be unrealistic to build a 50m pool at Mission Beach "for the time being", citing maintenance costs and the

seaside town's relatively small population.

The council recently voted to apply for a State Government Sports and Recreation grant, which if successful will cover half of the pool plan's estimated \$3.2 million price tag.

Resident: Council should build 50m pool

Mr Graham said he was concerned the current design, a six-lane 25m pool, was not capable of hosting competitive swim meets.

"This will be totally inadequate to conduct a serious competition for the Mission Beach children when they form a swimming club

and want to compete against other clubs at a higher level," Mr Graham said.

"I believe it is too late to change what they have set in motion so we have pretty much lost the war, but it's not too late for us ratepayers to at least push for an extra two lanes.