



Second bid for higher Kirra tower

A DEVELOPER is having a second attempt to convince Gold Coast City Council to approve a unit complex that exceeds Kirra's height guidelines by more than 100 per cent.

The Niecon Group wants to lift the current approval for its 12-storey Nirvana By The Sea complex to 15 storeys – a height the council knocked back in a negotiated decision last year.

Niecon will argue a precedent has been set for higher approvals in Kirra.

Southern Gold Coast councillor Chris Robbins is concerned that Kirra's sleepy beachside suburb character could be overtaken with 'clusters' of tall development.

"I believe our town plan is now being implemented by the courts," she said.

"I don't see Kirra as a place full of 15-storey buildings. I don't really think that was envisaged by the councillors who developed it (the town plan) at the time."

Niecon chief operating officer Mark Johnson said the proposed building would not detract from the amenity of the area.

"Nirvana is one of several multi-level developments which have been approved for the Kirra region, which also includes existing developments such as Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific development which is 15-storeys high," he said.

Cr Robbins said she had not seen Niecon's argument for increasing the height, but believed the developers would argue nearby developments had set a precedent.

"I assume Niecon looked at decisions like the Elysee (13-storey) development and believe that has changed the town plan," she said.

"Each site is theoretically assessed on its own merit, so I'm not envisaging an issue of a precedent, but it does worry me. I'd be happy with things staying at seven storeys."

Nirvana By The Sea is a mixed-use development including units, restaurants, cafes and shops.

"The southern coastline of Kirra may have been considered the sleepy sister of the glamorous northern beaches, but, over the past years it has been pinpointed as one of the emerging hot spots," said Mr Johnson.