

# Lynne Beck in new land deal row

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By PETER CATON

FORMER Tweed Mayor Lynne Beck is at the centre of a new development row over an alleged \$5 million windfall if a major rezoning went ahead.

Mrs Beck, sacked with other Tweed Shire councillors in May, allegedly stood to share in the money with her two sisters who live locally.

The deal was allegedly on the proviso that family farmland at Cudgen was rezoned to allow retail corporate giant Coles Myer to build a shopping centre and residential estate.

The red-soil property was sold last year for \$9.5million sparking alarm from neighbouring farmers who want to keep growing vegetables such as sweet potatoes.

The current NSW Labor Government has vowed to protect the area as prime agricultural land, requiring a major change in policy before multi-million development would be allowed.

Kingscliff Land Corporation, now a joint venture partner in

the land with Coles Myer, bought the land owned by Mrs Beck's mother, Ena Robertson, in June last year.

The *Daily News* has previously revealed the land was sold to Kingscliff Land Corporation in June last year and mortgage documents show Coles Myer took a \$4.5million interest last November.

Yesterday Mrs Beck initially dismissed a report that the real estate deal offered a further \$5 million on rezoning as "nonsense".

Later Mrs Beck declined to comment further saying her solicitors were deciding what action to take against the report in *The Australian*. She was quoted by the paper as saying she did not declare the ongoing interest in the property when she was a councillor as she was only required to declare interests once a year and was sacked in May.

Former councillor and president of the lobby group Tweed Monitor, Ron Cooper, said when the "deal was done" Mrs Beck was still a councillor.