

Beck was promised \$5m for rezoning

by Jeremy Pierce
Tweed bureau chief

SACKED Tweed councillor Lynne Beck and her family stood to collect a multimillion-dollar payout if a property she sold was rezoned for a shopping centre.

Mrs Beck, a former Tweed mayor and long-time councillor before the council was sacked earlier this year, signed a deal with her sisters Nancy Allen and Elizabeth Hammill which would see them collect \$5 million if Cudgen land they sold to a developer was rezoned.

EB 9.11.05

The deal was hatched when the property, owned by Mrs Beck's mother, was sold to Kingscliff Land Company last November, seven months before Mrs Beck and her colleagues were sacked after an inquiry into the council's relationships with developers.

Mrs Beck refused to comment yesterday, on her solicitor's advice.

At the time of the deal, she did not declare publicly an interest in the Cudgen property.

However, before her media ban, she was reported to have said she believed she had done nothing wrong.

"I did check it out and I was told you have to declare it once a year," she had said.

"I was sacked, so I have no conflict of interest."

The NSW Department of Local Government yesterday indicated it would not take action.

Deputy Director-General Ross Woodward said Mrs Beck had no case to answer.

"If she was still an active councillor it could be looked at, but there is no ability to do anything against someone who is no longer a councillor," said Mr Woodward.

The land is on Cudgen's farming belt and is zoned for agricultural protection, but KLC, which paid \$4.5 million for the property, was to offer Mrs Beck and her sisters an extra \$5 million if it were rezoned to retail and residential.