

# Leaders fear for area between Cudgen and Kingscliff

THERE are fears developers plan to concrete the elevated rural area between Cudgen and Kingscliff.

Concept plans for a commercial and residential development on prime agricultural land at Cudgen are likely to go to Tweed Council by the end of the year.

But with developers reported to have bought up three nearby farms in recent months, some civic leaders are concerned the project might be the first stage of a bigger project.

By COLLEEN DAVIS

TWEED SUN  
13.07.06  
p22c1

The proposed development is no longer just a district centre.

A large-scale residential component was mooted earlier this year, with a smaller shopping centre and emergency services base than that originally planned.

Cudgen Progress Association president Carl Redman said residents did not want to see farmland south-east of the traffic lights at Cudgen turned into a housing estate.

But Owen Lennie, managing director of development company WRF Property, said he was confident the company could show only a small part of the land it hoped to develop was worthy of 'state-significant' farmland status.

Council administrator Max Boyd, a vocal advocate of protecting farmland for future generations, said he knew of no NSW Government changes to state-significant agricultural land at Cudgen.

Although Mr Lennie expected concept plans to be put before

council within months, he said it was too early to say whether development would be high-density.

However he did confirm the development's focus would be on affordable housing.

Neighbouring landowner and Tweed Coast Business Association president Alan McIntosh said he also would not like to see residential rooftops.

"But I don't believe that (land) should be green space," he said.

Mr McIntosh said there was a need for education facilities, a

hospital and a central location for emergency services and land should be set aside now for this.

Mr Lennie said he had met with representatives from the Kingscliff and Cudgen residents' associations to let them know in general terms what was being planned.

But Mr Redman said plans for the development, as well as lobbying in Sydney, were being done behind residents' backs.

"It's sort of out for public comment, but it's not made public yet," he said.