

SE PrimeSpace
HD **Metro wins green light for unit tower**
BY Rosanne Barrett
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DAVID Devine's Metro **Property Group** has won legal backing to develop a 20-storey **apartment** tower in Kangaroo Point, paving the way for a multi-million-dollar **sale** of the **site** to **Chinese** developers R&F.

The Brisbane-based developer yesterday staved off a challenge in Queensland's Planning and Environment Court from a residents' **group** opposed to the development of the 202-unit complex in the Brisbane suburb.

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Judge Kiernan Dorney QC dismissed the appeal against the tower, noting existing high-density living within Kangaroo Point such as the Dockside **apartment** complex, existing public transport options and open space in the suburb.

The approved development is twice the height allowable under the city plan, but a 2008 court decision had given the go-ahead for an even larger development on the **site**.

Mr Devine said he was very pleased with the outcome and warned residents he could pursue them for legal costs.

"The people of the Kangaroo Point Residents Association should have a close look at themselves and stop wasting people's time when this was a responsible development approved by Brisbane City Council," he told The Australian.

"One wonders why they spent so much time and money fighting a case on grounds that were of self-interest. I think the residents' association have to understand that costs can be awarded against them and if they want to take that risk then they need to make sure they're aware of the situation." Mr Devine made a splash this year when it was revealed he had **sold** the land and another development **site** at South Brisbane to **Chinese** developers R&F for \$65 million. It is expected he will book a profit of up to \$20m.

Mr Devine yesterday refused to comment on the deal, which industry insiders anticipated would settle early next year.

The Kangaroo Point development, fronting Cairns and Lambert Streets, was scaled back from its original 23 storeys. There were 140 objections to the development. The Kangaroo Point Residents' Association raised \$120,000 to fund its legal action.

Resident and architect David Murray said he and other locals were disappointed in the outcome. "All these local areas plans aren't worth the paper they're written on," he said.

Fellow local Karen Williams said the **group** was not opposed to development but wanted sustainable growth that supported the local lifestyle. Brisbane Council planning assessment chairwoman Amanda Cooper said the Metro development was lower, with less bulk than previously approved.

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