

SE News  
HD **Bumpy ride for proposed plan**  
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IT'S got a treasure ship and thanksgiving temple, a distinctive name and even a "panda paradise".

But a proposed \$500 million **Chinese** cultural theme **park** north of Wyong experienced rocky feng shui yesterday that included questions about the terms of a \$10 million land **purchase** from Wyong Shire Council, and a run-in with Disneyland.

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Wyong mayor Doug Eaton and Australian **China** Theme **Park** Pty Ltd chairman Bruce Zhong announced details of the "Chappypie **China** Time" theme **park** on a 15-hectare **site** at Warnervale that Mr Eaton said would "blow people away".

The 12 stages will include a Forbidden City, **Chinese** gourmet area, "Spring Festival" square, a thanksgiving temple of three buildings and statues of goddesses, a river with dragon boats, landscaped garden and a "giant ship" that "celebrated Australia and **China's** shared maritime history".

But Australian **China** Theme **Park** is yet to lodge a development application for the project, and Mr Eaton confirmed the **company** had paid Wyong Shire Council only \$70,000 towards the \$10 million **purchase** of the Warnervale land.

Mr Eaton defended the contract as he expected the **company** to lodge its formal development application for the first stage of the project, the thanksgiving temple, in the next few weeks to allow public comment. The council could consider the application by year-end.

The revised plans allowing for rides prompted a media release from Mr Eaton yesterday, which described it as a "**Chinese**-themed Disneyland" and "**Chinese** Disneyland for Warnervale".

The council late yesterday apologised to Disney Australia after a Disney representative contacted it.

The project "Isn't associated with Disney or Disneyland", a Disney Australia spokeswoman said to the Newcastle Herald.

Despite the apology, Mr Eaton remained upbeat.

"You certainly don't see an investment of \$500 million in a tourism project very often."

The 20-strong **Chinese** delegation included eight from the Shanghai Construction **Company**, one of **China's** largest construction firms.

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