



# Funding hope for project

THE redevelopment of the Surfers Paradise foreshore is back on the drawing board.

The second stage of the project was placed in limbo in August when the cash-strapped Raptis Group pulled out of the \$750 million Iluka development.

But Division 7 councillor Susie Douglas has sought funding under the Federal Government's \$20 billion Building Australia Infrastructure program to get the project off the ground.

She said it would be a huge economic benefit to the city.

If successful, it would mean the project would be co-funded at local, state and federal government levels.

"It is of huge economic benefit to the city and it is important to have it all completed so the Gold Coast can continue to grow into a modern economic centre," Cr Douglas said.

"It is an expensive

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project and if we share the cost with the (Federal) Government, we will be very happy."

Cr Douglas said the redevelopment had many benefits for the Gold Coast.

"Other cities which have done up their esplanades have noticed how many more tourists are coming back," she said.

"It is important our esplanade and Surfers Paradise beach are welcoming to tourists."

Surfers Paradise Chamber of Commerce president Laura Younger said she wanted to see the redevelopment completed.

"It was disappointing when it did not go ahead and we would support any move to see it go forward," she said.

"It is an important thing for the future use of Surfers Paradise and if it makes the area more user-friendly, it will end up attracting more people into Surfers Paradise."