

# TRINITY POINT 'We have over 7500 people waiting for an apartment'

## Plans unveiled for luxury resort

### Madeline Link

THE SECRET sauce behind one of the most highly-anticipated developments in Lake Macquarie is Keith and Natalie Johnson's commitment to nothing but the best.

Johnson Property Group's landmark \$663.9 million luxury waterfront project at Trinity Point will bring a resort experience to the shores of Lake Macquarie, complete with a cutting-edge wellness centre and two world-class restaurants stamped with Ms Johnson's unique eye for design.

A detailed development application has been lodged with Lake Macquarie council, the final step in what has been a years-long process to bring their ambitious dream to life.

Mr Johnson said he's hopeful the project will be complete in two to three years, once it has the sign off from council.

"We've had some interest [from building companies] but again we've got to get down to the detail, and it won't be one big build, it will be built in stages," he said.

"Everybody's positive and excited. "We get 1000 people a day into the restaurant, so you know, we're not door-knocking, but we talk to a hell of a lot of people who all want it to happen."

Mr Johnson said about 80 per cent of their weekend customer base comes from Sydney, a clientele he only expects to grow when the final product is complete.

If approved, the project will be built in stages, starting with some of the 218 hotel rooms across two of the six unique rolling-hill style buildings designed by Australian firm Koichi Takada Architects.



Concept designs for the luxury waterfront Trinity Point project. Picture supplied

Ms Johnson said the success of the 8 at Trinity restaurant has only bolstered their confidence in what the future holds.

"The restaurant showed us the clientele and what people wanted, and that's what has given us the absolute tenacity to know that it's going to work and be very successful," she said.

"We have over 7500 people waiting for an apartment and we haven't even marketed it, it's all through the restaurant."

Mr Johnson said he's not surprised at the success the restaurant has had, despite its more remote location.

"You do good food, you do good quality and people will come," he said.

"I'm not surprised because we invested, knowing that's why we made the investment.

"Everybody who visits

Lake Macquarie, even now they bring their people out to see Trinity, it's already doing that, it will be one of the greatest attractions equivalent to the Sydney Opera House."

The hotel will be complemented by two 300-seat restaurants, one a new and improved 8 at Trinity and the other a modern Asian-fusion offering, 160 residential apartments, the wellness centre, gym and business facilities.

Ms Johnson said she wants guests to feel like they could be anywhere in the world.

"If people think 8 at Trinity is amazing, we're bringing 1000 people a day to the middle of nowhere, we're just a restaurant on a plot of land on the waterfront right now with no other attraction than the marina," she said.



The developers want guests to feel like they could be anywhere in the world. Picture supplied

"We have 80 per cent of people drive up here on the weekend just to come and eat, to be in that atmosphere and feel like you've gone away, that's the secret."

The hope for the wellness centre is that it becomes a retreat that people fly to from all over the world to visit, offering the latest treatments like IVs, cryotherapy,

hyperbaric oxygen therapy, red light therapy and more.

An economic impact report states the project will generate 398 jobs, \$15.8 million in salaries and \$3218 million in additional economic activity.

Submissions on the project can be made at the Lake Macquarie council website at lakemac.com.au

## Housing groups back build-to-rent legislation

### Caitlin Powell

HOUSING organisations and independent politicians are urging the Senate to pass the build-to-rent bill as new research shows housing affordability is a priority for voters.

Almost eight in 10 Australians (79 per cent) say there is a lack of affordable housing in their area, with the issue charting as people's second highest concern, a YouGov poll for the Property Council of Australia has found.

The poll found respondents were most concerned about the cost of living, with the economy and health care ranked third and fourth.

The property council and the National Shelter and Community Housing Industry Association said 105,000 new homes could be delivered across the next decade - including 10,500 affordable rentals - if build-to-rent legislation was passed with their proposed changes.

The groups are calling for three amendments to the bill - to adjust tax settings to encourage build-to-rent housing growth; refine the 10 per cent affordable housing requirement within projects; and introduce measures to enhance the security of tenure for renters. The YouGov poll found most (61 per cent) respondents supported a bill with these additional incentives.

The Albanese government is trying to push forward legislation that would secure tax incentives for developers and financiers that put properties up for rent instead of selling them off. However, it has stalled in the Senate due to opposition from the Coalition and the Greens.

## Merewether renovator in price 'sweet spot' draws a crowd

### AUCTIONS

#### Jade Lazarevic

A PROPERTY "in that sweet spot in price" brought buyers out in force at auction in Merewether at the weekend.

The auction of the 1970s-era three-bedroom, one-bathroom house at 68a Berner Street drew 18 registered bidders.

"Typically that sort of money in the early \$1 million range will get you a townhouse in that area, so it was popular. It was in that sweet spot in price because prop-

erties like that don't come up much in Merewether," Simon Wall Property listing agent Simon Wall said.

Set on 349 square metres, the property had been held by one owner since the early 1970s and was in its original condition.

"In the end, only around four bidders took part in the auction," the agent said.

"It went from \$1.2 million and then \$1.3 million and then to \$1.4 million pretty quickly. We had around 100 onlookers and when you have that big crowd, it cre-

ates a bit of extra emotion so they were big bids and the other buyers couldn't get in there once it jumped up so quickly at the start."

The property sold under the hammer for \$1.49 million.

It was one of 41 auctions across Newcastle and Lake Macquarie in the week ending November 3. The region recorded a clearance rate of 68.1 per cent, according to CoreLogic's preliminary results.

A freshly renovated house in Gateshead attracted strong buyer interest. The auction of

the four-bedroom home at 56 Mahogany Crescent listed with Ty Zink at Ray White East Lake Macquarie drew six registered bidders.

The hotly contested auction began with an opening bid of \$650,000 and the property was sold for \$752,000.

Salt Property took four properties to auction including a four-bedroom apartment at 9/161 Scott Street, Newcastle. The auction began with an opening bid of \$1.4 million and the property went on to sell for \$1.63 million.



Simon Wall Property's auction of 68a Berner Street in Merewether drew 18 registered bidders. Picture supplied