

Pristine resort sold

Developer buys island businesses

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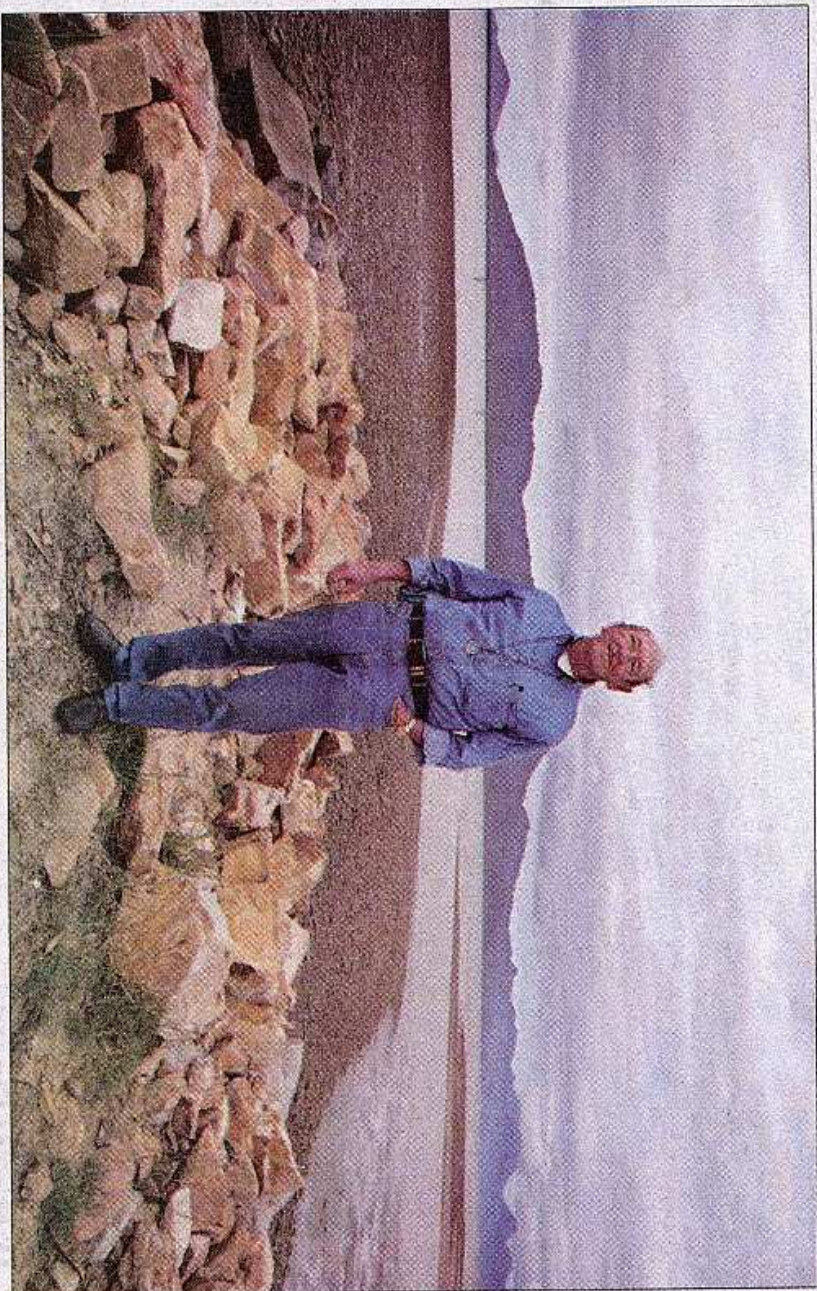
DEVELOPER Keith Williams has bought Hinchinbrook Island Resort and associated business Hinchinbrook Ferries.

"We have signed the contract but we are still waiting for the transfer of the lease and we don't know how long that will take," Mr Williams said yesterday.

Mr Williams said his company, Williams Corporation Pty Ltd, would take over management of the Hinchinbrook Island eco-tourist resort from June 1.

He said the owners of the resort and ferry service were eager to sell because of family issues, but he would not disclose the details of the contract.

"We've had a very good association with the owners of that resort for the past six to



Beautiful area: Keith Williams, who has bought Hinchinbrook Island Resort, plans to retain its identity and environment.

sevenyears," Mr Williams said. The developer said his plan for the resort, which was established in the late 1970s at the northern tip of the island, was to upgrade some of the accommodation but not go beyond "existing limits".

"The tree-top apartments are very good but some of the older cabins on the ground

will have to be rebuilt or improved.

"It's my intention to see that the resort retains its identity and that the pristine environment of the island and passage is preserved."

Mr Williams said from Sunday, June 3, a new Hinchinbrook Explorer ferry service would revive the historic *Tekin*

cruise from the 1980s, taking travellers through Hinchinbrook Passage.

He said in the next two years Port Hinchinbrook would be expanded "dramatically".

"It's a beautiful area and it hasn't been promoted to any great degree since I began work at Port Hinchinbrook," he said.