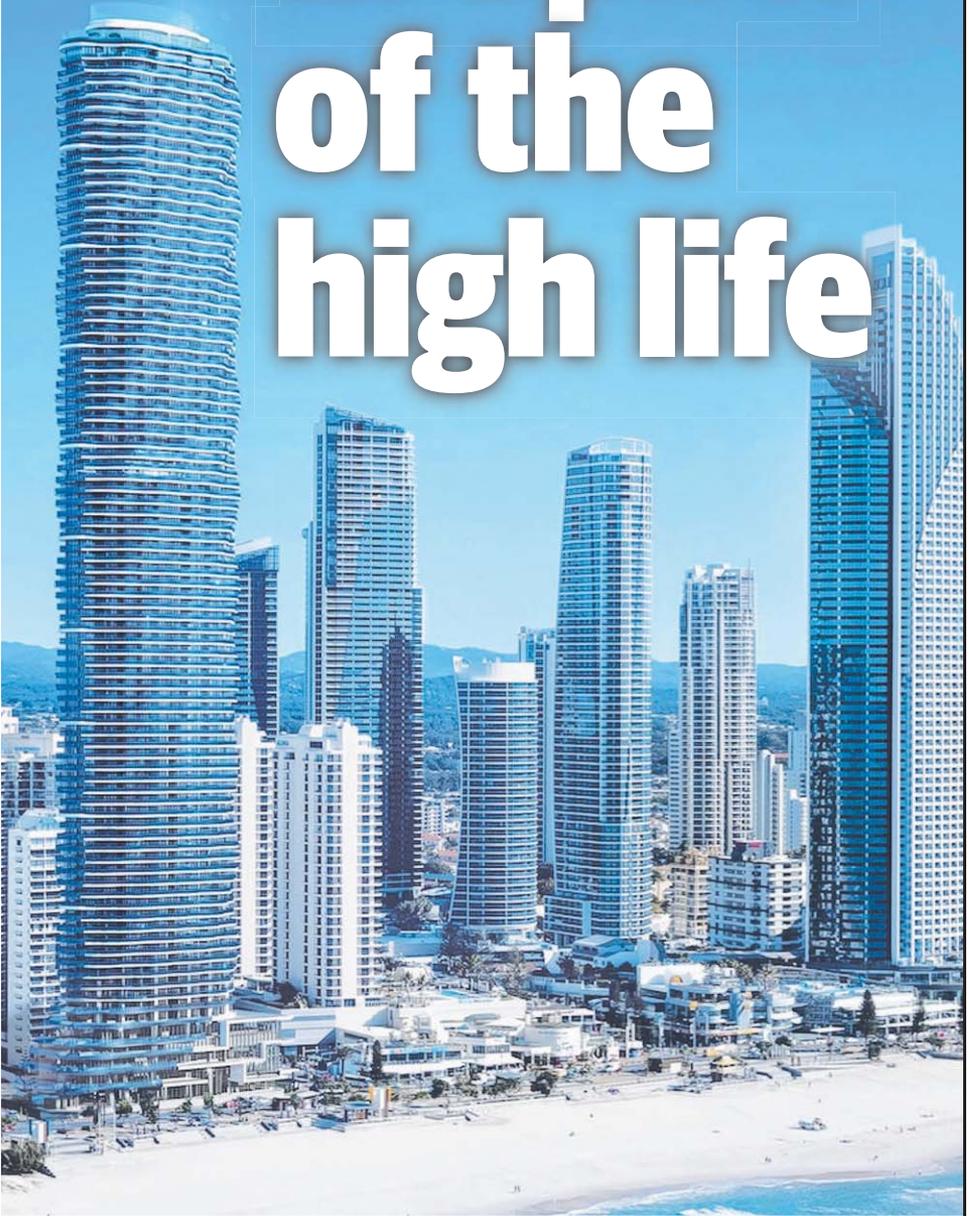


In Spirit of the high life



TOURISM DRAWCARD: An artist's impression of new Gold Coast super tower Spirit.

Tower to add billions to economy

SAMANTHA HEALY

MORE than 900 full-time jobs are expected to be created during construction of the Gold Coast's newest super tower.

Beijing-based Foriseland will build Spirit – an 89-storey residential tower – on the site of the Iluka hotel at Surfers Paradise.

The claim, supported in a report by MacroPlan Dimasi for Foriseland, suggests 945 jobs will be supported both on and off site, with another 585 ongoing full-time-equivalent jobs in retail, residential and accommodation services once complete.

The \$1.2 billion Spirit will rise 303m above sea level, or 298m high, and while technically shorter than Q1, which has a spire that takes it to 322.5m, it will feature the highest living space in the country. Q1 has a roof level of 245m.

“Developments of this scale, and with the international profile that it garners, have the capacity to make a big impact on the local economy,” said Tony Hickey of Hickey Management, which is managing the project on behalf of Foriseland.

“This is especially critical now as the Gold Coast strives to maintain its mo-

mentum in the post-Commonwealth Games era.”

MacroPlan Dimasi estimates that the combined direct and indirect economic benefit of Spirit to the Gold Coast and southeast Queensland economy will be \$1.84 billion over the next six years alone.

The ongoing benefits include an additional \$62 million in tourism expenditure when the project is completed through an extra 248,000 visitor nights per annum.

This figure is based on estimates that short-stay visitors will account for 70 per cent of the project's 479 apartments.