

# Media Release

## Stadium-sized sand boost for Surfers Paradise beach

Imagine filling Metricon Stadium with sand, to the top of the goal posts.

That's roughly the volume of sand – some 113,000m<sup>3</sup> - that will be used to top up Surfers Paradise beach this week, in a huge boost for the city's coastal defences.

The massive mountain of sand has been excavated from the Jewel development site, where work is now underway on a \$1 billion development featuring a five-star hotel and residential apartments. The sand is being donated by developer the Wanda Ridong Group under an agreement with City of Gold Coast.

Mayor Tom Tate said the arrangement is a major win for Gold Coast residents and visitors.

“This is the largest volume of sand ever received from a development site on the Gold Coast, and the biggest sand deposit placed on Surfers Paradise beach so far this century. As a result, it's also a major cost saving for ratepayers in the fight against beach erosion,” he said.

“This amount of sand will make a huge difference when this stretch of coastline faces the challenges of nature, and will help to maximise the efforts of our City staff and community groups who work year-round to maintain and protect our beaches.”

Wanda Ridong Group Gold Coast Development Director of Sales and Marketing, Andrew Bampton, said he was thrilled to get involved in helping to protect the city's coastline.

“The foundations for Jewel's three towers will plunge tens of metres below the surface which has required significant excavation, so we wanted to be able to do something positive with this incredible resource. The intense cleansing process, and subsequent relocation, provides a major benefit for the coastline,” he said.

“As the first development with direct beach access in around 30 years, Jewel has on-site experts to make sure our control measures are second-to-none, including constant monitoring and frequent inspections.”

The excavated sand will be sieved and deposited along the beach directly east of the development site, in an area which has experienced past erosion. Due to the natural northerly movement of sand along the coast, beaches and adjacent properties north of the site will also benefit from added protection.

The Gold Coast is widely considered to be among the world's best in coastal management, with the City investing almost \$20 million in Beaches and Waterways works in 2014-15.

Find out more about our Ocean Beaches Strategy at [cityofgoldcoast.com.au/coast](http://cityofgoldcoast.com.au/coast)

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## Ocean Beaches Strategy – 2014-15 milestones

- City invests \$19,795,200 in managing and protecting Gold Coast beaches and waterways during 2014-15.
- Construction of seawalls at a cost of \$3 million at:
  - Broadbeach, between Australia Ave and Queensland Ave (Miles Buisson Park)
  - Palm Beach near Seventh Ave (Andy Frizzell Park)
  - Palm Beach near Twenty Seventh Avenue.
- Gold Coast receives three national awards for outstanding coastal management research, community involvement, and sustained collaboration with business.
- Burleigh Heads named Queensland's cleanest beach for 2015 by Keep Queensland Beautiful, as a result of the City's ongoing partnership with community groups to maintain our beaches.
- City implements beach preparedness program for storm season 2014-15, resulting in only minimal storm impacts to our coastline.
- Annual dredging program runs at Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creeks, pumping 40,000 m<sup>3</sup> of sand onto nearby beaches to nourish areas vulnerable to erosion.
- Surf amenity improvement at Kirra following the City's reinstatement of Kirra Groyne.
- Existing seawalls investigated and reviewed to identify priority areas of work, improving protection of community infrastructure against coastal hazards, and reducing public seawall construction costs.
- Commitment made to ongoing partnership with Griffith University's Centre for Coastal Management, with an investment of \$4.4 million over five years.
- The BeachCare program to maintain coastal dunes involves 720 volunteers donating some 1400 hours across 10 sites, planting more than 2000 native plants, removing 8 tonnes of weeds and 2 tonnes of litter.
- An extensive program of coastal data collection undertaken, including coastal imaging cameras collecting time lapse photography of beach health during daylight hours at three monitoring locations. The live and archived images are available to view at <http://ci.wrl.unsw.edu.au/current-projects/>

## Jewel Development

- Jewel is a five-star hotel and residence that will set new benchmarks in design and luxury. The project is located on absolute beachfront on the Gold Coast and is the city's only beachfront five-star hotel and apartment complex to be built in over 30 years. The project's three 200 meter high towers are being built with a total investment of \$900 million and will be completed in 2018.
- Dalian Wanda Group was founded in 1988 and operates in four key areas: commercial properties, culture and tourism, e-commerce and department stores. In 2014, the company had assets of 534.1 billion yuan and revenues of 242.48 billion yuan. The company now operates 109 Wanda Plazas, 71, 6,600 cinema screens and 99 department stores. Capitalising on these achievements, the corporation has expanded internationally reaching across the globe including USA, Spain, Australia and the United Kingdom.
- In Australia, some developments including Jewel will be undertaken as a joint venture with Ridong Group, to create Wanda Ridong Developments Gold Coast Pty Limited. Ridong is now one of the most successful developers in Guangdong Province, China.