

\$2.4b shot in the arm for Gold Coast

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OVER \$2 billion in building projects for the Gold Coast are on the verge of being rubber-stamped before Christmas.

The \$2.4 billion cash splash will mean more than 10,000 direct and indirect jobs created, which experts predict will have a flow-on effect on the city's economy outside construction.

The \$800 million Arrowtown development at Pimpama, \$900 million Jewel triple tower at Surfers Paradise and \$500 million Treetops Plaza redevelopment are expected to be signed off by the council prior to Christmas.

The \$300 million Brighton and Broadwater residential tower at Southport is expected to be approved in just more than a week.

The news comes after the State Government put pressure on the council over the Coomera Town Centre and Pacific Fair redevelopment, but the council says the hold-up was not on its end.

City planning boss Cr Ted Shepherd defended the council's planning division, saying the backlog of major projects was almost cleared.

Council's city planning director Warren Rowe said the current crop of development approvals would not be the last, with a \$600 million high-rise project at Surfers Paradise, Paradise Resort, lodged last week.

