

Myer confirms Robina store

Gold Coast Bulletin - Shannon Willoughby

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THE rumours are true -- Myer will open a store at Robina Town Centre.

The Australia-wide department store yesterday announced it would open at the Gold Coast shopping centre in 2010, as it moves to expand its Queensland presence.

It will be the second Myer on the Gold Coast, with one already a tenant at Pacific Fair.

Yesterday's announcement came amid rumours David Jones was eyeing off a site at Pacific Fair, which has proposed redevelopment plans before council. If this is the case, the shopping giants will go head-to-head, competing for consumer spending.

The announcement follows an article in The Bulletin last week, revealing Myer was looking at a site at Robina Town Centre, which is undergoing a \$300 million expansion.

It is understood Myer will move into the area that currently houses the cinemas.

QIC, the owner of Robina Town Centre, has confirmed Birch Carroll & Coyle would be relocated.

Robina Town Centre will be remodelled with the creation of three new malls linking with the existing Arbour Lane, Bazaar Street and the food markets.

Completion is due next year.

The site already boasts the Gold Coast's only David Jones department store, as well as Target, Kmart, Woolworths and Coles.

QIC's head of global real estate Laurie Brindle said Myer had expressed strong interest in southeast Queensland.

"The current \$300 million expansion at Robina Town Centre was triggered by strong population growth in the catchment area, driving demand for more retail and leisure amenities," said Mr Brindle.

"(The) announcement by Myer demonstrates a clear commitment to the Gold Coast, and aligns with QIC's vision for the next stage of the centre's expansion.

"The inclusion of Myer is a logical next step in the growth of Robina Town Centre and would be in keeping with developing the area as a key regional area."

The centre will also have an extra 1100 car parks, taking the total spaces to around 6000. The creation of a new ring road with direct set-down areas will provide 360-degree access to the centre.

Myer yesterday said that it was expanding its brand across Queensland, with a further two stores at Mackay and Mt Gravatt also announced.

It had previously announced a store would open in Townsville in 2011, and it is preparing to open one at Northlakes in less than a month.

Meanwhile, if council approves Pacific Fair's expansion plans, the site will feature a further 130 stores.

Floor space would swell to 140,000sqm, making the AMP-owned centre the biggest in Queensland and among the top five largest in Australia.

This will be its biggest extension in its three-decade history.

Westfield has been chosen to design the centre.