



## Three-tower, six-star Jewel for Coast

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A CHINESE developer is giving the Gold Coast a much-needed billion dollar 'jewel' which will begin dazzling and drawing upmarket Asian tourists from 2014.

After an exhaustive 12-month design phase, Ridong (Gold Coast) Development has finally lodged plans with the Gold Coast City Council for a luxury three-tower project that will house the Glitter Strip's only six-star hotel.

The \$900 million development, aptly named Jewel and backed by the private wealth of Ridong founder Riyu Li, will become the new shining light for the Gold Coast construction scene.

The eco-friendly development, which comes with a five-star green rating, is said to be one of the largest privately funded tourism infrastructure projects on the Gold Coast in 25 years.

Work on the tri-tower project, proposed for a 1.13ha beachfront site at the southern end of Surfers Paradise, is scheduled to begin at the end of 2012.

The development will comprise of towers of 45, 41 and 35 storeys and include a six-star resort, and is scheduled to take its first guests by Christmas 2014 -- ahead of China Southern Airlines' plans to begin direct flights from Guangzhou to Coolangatta in 2015.

Ridong has held discussions with a stable of premium brands, including the Hyatt, Shangri-La, Peninsula and Setai chains, as possible hotel operators at Jewel.

The resort tower will have 298 suites and apartments, as well as restaurants and cafes, a beach club, day spa, and conference rooms within a three-level podium. The residential component will comprise a "luxury tower" of 216 apartments and, the smallest of the buildings, a "premium tower" with 107 high-end apartments.

The proposal also will include construction of the controversial Oceanway walk on the Jewel's stretch of the foreshore.