

\$324m train works begin

FINALLY, the Gold Coast will be getting the infrastructure to complement its booming growth levels with the start of work on the \$107.6 million rail expansion to Varsity Lakes just weeks away.

With a 300m rail tunnel set in the heart of Robina, the 4.1km rail extension to the planned \$324.4 million Varsity Lakes hub will allow the breathing space necessary for league fans patronising the Robina stadium while also providing welcome relief for the Gold Coast's daily commuters.

It would also help accommodate the possible shift of the Gold Coast Turf Club to Palm Meadows.

But while the transport hub and new Varsity Lakes station will ease pressure on the faltering transport grid, the retail, office and residential opportunities planned for the 8.5ha site will also mean a powerful economic boost for the Coast.

The new hub will create 3500 jobs alone, with construction to incorporate the station, two road overbridges at Investigator Drive and Robina

Parkway and the dual electrified tracks.

And the railway resurgence on the Coast is definitely not stopping there.

Premier Peter Beattie said the State Government was already looking even further ahead with an additional \$6 million for early works, planning and design for the next stage of the rail upgrade from Varsity Lakes to Tallebudgera.