

Vision of state railway transit plan unveiled

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A NEW eco-friendly railway station at Varsity Lakes on the Gold Coast will be the focal point of Queensland's first purpose-built transit-oriented development.

The \$28 million station and development will be a key component of the \$325 million Robina to Varsity Lakes extension, which will add 4.1km to the Gold Coast line.

Premier Anna Bligh, who returned from a trade mission to China, Japan and India last night, will today unveil plans for the station and track upgrade.

The State Government has already identified Bowen Hills, Albion, South Bank and Roma St in Brisbane as future tran-

sit developments.

They will incorporate new housing and offices linked to public transport — at a cost of more than \$1 billion.

Ms Bligh said the new station would be the centrepiece of the future Varsity Station village.

"The idea is to create a sort of a one-stop-shop for transport in the region, with a village feel where people can do a bit of shopping or have a coffee while they wait for their train or their bus," Ms Bligh told *The Sunday Mail* from Singapore yesterday.

The Premier said there would be retail, residential and commercial properties and a transit interchange at the station.

Construction would start within a few months, she said.

"Work will continue in earnest over the next two years to build more vital rail infrastructure for the Gold Coast."

Ms Bligh said Varsity Lakes station would be one of the first in Queensland Rail's urban rail network to have rainwater storage tanks to collect roof water for its bathrooms and gardens.

Transport Minister John Mickel said the Government recognised the rising demand for public transport as population grew on the Gold Coast.

The first half of the Helensvale-to-Robina track duplication has been completed, and the second track between Helensvale and Nerang will be opened tomorrow.



CLEAN LINES: The eco-station's design