

• DEVELOPMENT BOOM



Jo Turnbull relaxes at Peppers Salt Resort and Spa at Kingscliff • Picture: David Clark

Tourists drive growth

by Geoff Chambers
Tweed bureau

TOURISTS are flocking to the Tweed Coast in droves as a new wave of development prepares to make its mark from Kirra to Byron Bay.

Peppers Salt Resort and Spa recorded a staggering 2500 guests in its first operational week over the Christmas-New Year period and 7000 across the month while Twin Towns also reported capacity numbers.

Project manager for the Tweed Heads town centre masterplan facilitation team Magdy Youssef said the Tweed Coast's potential was being recognised.

"This region is coming of age at a very rapid rate of knots," he said. "The reality is that developers and businesses are moving into this area because they recognise the growth of the region in terms of population and visitor numbers."

The major developments centred on the Tweed CBD are spearheaded by the \$94 million Twin Towns Harbour Tower Resort, which is under construction at Wharf Street and scheduled for completion in June.

Other residential and commercial projects in the pipeline include the \$145 million Tweed Ultima and a \$120 million residential development by Citimark

on the corner of Bay and Enid streets, which has been lodged for assessment with NSW Planning.

At Coolangatta, residential towers like Niecon's \$120 million Reflections On The Sea are driving more than \$160 million in development activity.

The emerging focus on the Gold Coast's southern end has been enhanced by the recent announcement of major rejuvenation plans along the foreshore from Bilinga to Tweed Heads.

The masterplan includes an idea to transform the area into a budding Venice Beach with the construction of a 15km-long beach promenade.