

\$200m agreement for CBD



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A FOUR-WAY deal has been struck paving the way for international infrastructure and development firm John Holland to stake a claim in the new Maroochydore city centre.

The deal, valued at more than \$200 million, is a memorandum of understanding between Sunshine Coast Council,

John Holland, SunCentral Maroochydore Pty Ltd and the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Negotiations are now under way to develop five "super lots" in the city centre.

The blocks, in Precinct 3, cover a total of about 1.4ha and will be developed into high-rise buildings.

Included in the planned development is a dedicated city hall building, which house some Sunshine Coast Council staff and resources to establish customer service, council chambers

and office space on one of the lots.

Opposite the new city hall, across a park, will be the proposed University of the Sunshine Coast building.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Hill confirmed the institution was eager to establish a campus within the new city centre.

He said they'd envisaged opportunities for teaching, research and

accommodation within the CBD and it would be an attractive prospect for international students.

"It should be really good," Prof Hill said.

He said light rail could also play a crucial role in luring overseas students to the new campus.

"We want it (to be) as easy as possible for people to get to us from as broad a range of locations as possible," Prof Hill said.

Since the sods were turned in February last year, 35 lots have been taken to market, piquing international and local

interest.

Cr Jamieson said more than \$450 million worth of construction had been proposed through the expressions of interest process for those lots.

He said the council would be a "key, cornerstone tenant" of the new CBD.

More details of the agreement struck yesterday will be released as negotiations progress.



NEW: John Holland's Chris Mattes, left, Mayor Mark Jamieson, USC Vice-Chancellor Prof Greg Hill and SunCentral chairman Doug McTaggart at the site.
INSET: The city blocks to be developed by John Holland. PHOTOS: PATRICK WOODS/CONTRIBUTED