

Job hub turns up the heat

By MILENA STOJCESKA

BOOM suburb Southport has been hailed a Gold Coast employment hotspot.

An independent property researcher said the central business hub had emerged as one of the city's best performing sub-regions, with employment opportunities and growth higher than most other suburbs.

Property Research director Colleen Coyne said Southport was expected to perform better than other areas thanks to new big-ticket infrastructure, including the Gold Coast University Hospital and proposed rapid transit system.

Southport's designated sub-region stretches from Ashmore to Paradise Point.

Ms Coyne studied each economic sub-region to find the areas best positioned to cope with the predicted levels of population growth across the city, which were estimated to be about 350,000 new residents in the next 22 years.

Ms Coyne said Southport was one of the leading areas in terms of job containment, meaning many residents were able to live and work in the sub-region.

Southport also scored high in education, training, healthcare and social assistance industries.



Colleen Coyne

With the country's economy at a standstill, Southport remained stronger than other regions, she said.

"The national slow-down is impacting the Gold Coast and will have a long-term effect on the city's ability to continue to create new jobs for the expanding population," she said.

"Southport, though, is expected to fare better than many other sub-regions, as it will continue to gain jobs in the key knowledge sectors of health and education."

Ms Coyne said it was essential for the Gold Coast City Council to approve the Seaway bypass upgrade.

"This is a critical tourism and marine industry asset that has long been neglected and, as such, the private sector is strongly pushing for this matter to be addressed," she said.

"An improvement to the Broadwater would encourage further businesses opportunities in the area."