

Parra-digm shift: building boom to create 'second CBD'

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The cranes rising in the air above Parramatta are set to give way to dozens of towers - up to 67 storeys high - over the next decade as the skyline of Sydney's fast-growing second CBD takes shape.

The City of Parramatta Council, which is overseeing an unprecedented wave of public and private investment, has offered a glimpse of how \$5.5 billion worth of building projects will change the city.

The council has released images and video footage showing 30 major building projects - each at varying stages of development - which look set to transform the city's core over the next 10 years.

Western Sydney Business Chamber executive director David Borger said Parramatta had become "the only second CBD in Australia" and development in the city was "accelerating at a fast pace".

But he said the residents' quality of life needed to be preserved amid the area's infrastructure boom.

"We've got to make sure the city becomes a more liveable city," he said. "When cities get design ... right, everyone benefits."

Among the completed developments are the 30,000-seat Bankwest Stadium and Arthur Phillip High School's \$225 million high-rise campus, which will open to students in 2020.

Projects yet to be finished include a new \$77 million public

Future Parramatta

\$5.5b investment

5000+ dwellings

Five new public buildings



swimming pool, the Parramatta Square development and the Civic Link walkway connecting the train station to Parramatta River.

The \$3.2 billion Parramatta Square project - a decades-long attempt to regenerate the area adjacent to Parramatta Station - will

feature four towers developed by the Walker Corporation.

And developer Meriton, founded by billionaire Harry Triguboff, last month won approval to build Parramatta's tallest residential high-rise at 67 storeys with an adjoining 58-storey hotel tower.

The city's development rush is set to complement the planned \$5.3 billion Western Sydney Airport and the Berejiklian government's much-vaunted Metro rail line from central Sydney.

The council said each of the 30 projects exhibited design excel-

lence under planning rules that require major developments to be subject to a design competition before they can be approved.

Parramatta mayor Bob Dwyer said the well-planned infrastructure would meet "the needs of current and future populations".

BUILDING REFORM

'Hi-jacked': bill dropped

Cocaine from Mexico

sealed in metal ingots