



By JESSICA ELDER

Southport seen as valuable resource

ONE of the city's development industry leaders has labelled Southport as the Gold Coast's 'diamond in the rough'.

Sustainable Development president Greg Short said Southport was by far the city's most valuable resource for urban redevelopment.

"Southport, the city's oldest central business district, is undoubtedly the most logical place at the northern end of the

Gold Coast for substantial urban renewal," he said.

"Unlike Surfers Paradise, Main Beach or Broadbeach, it has large areas of land that can be easily amalgamated... if developers move in earlier, rather than later, acquisition costs will be lower."

Mr Short said more high-rise towers were needed in Southport - but insisted it was not

about people having their heads in the clouds.

"The Gold Coast needs to grow to accommodate population growth and... I really think Southport is the answer," he said.

"There is room to grow, there is the forthcoming light rail system, the Southport-Broadwater Parklands and, hopefully, there will soon be a pedestrian green bridge to Main Beach."