

BUSINESS

Development Gold Coast: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk backs construction of The Star casino's \$400m 63-storey Broadbeach supertower

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has hailed The Star Entertainment Group's latest supertower, a \$400 million, 63-storey building, as a "vote of confidence" in the state. READ THE FULL REPORT

ANDREW POTTS and Kathleen Skene, Gold Coast Bulletin

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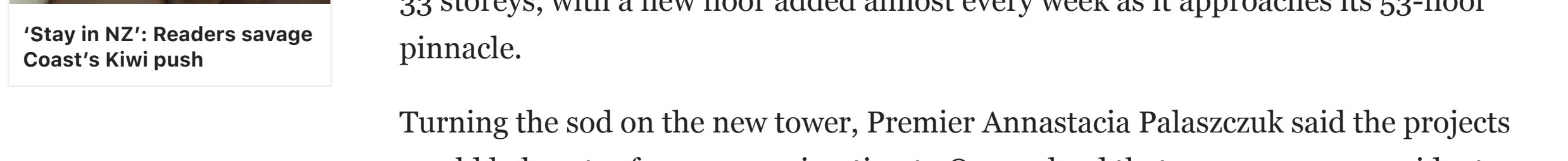
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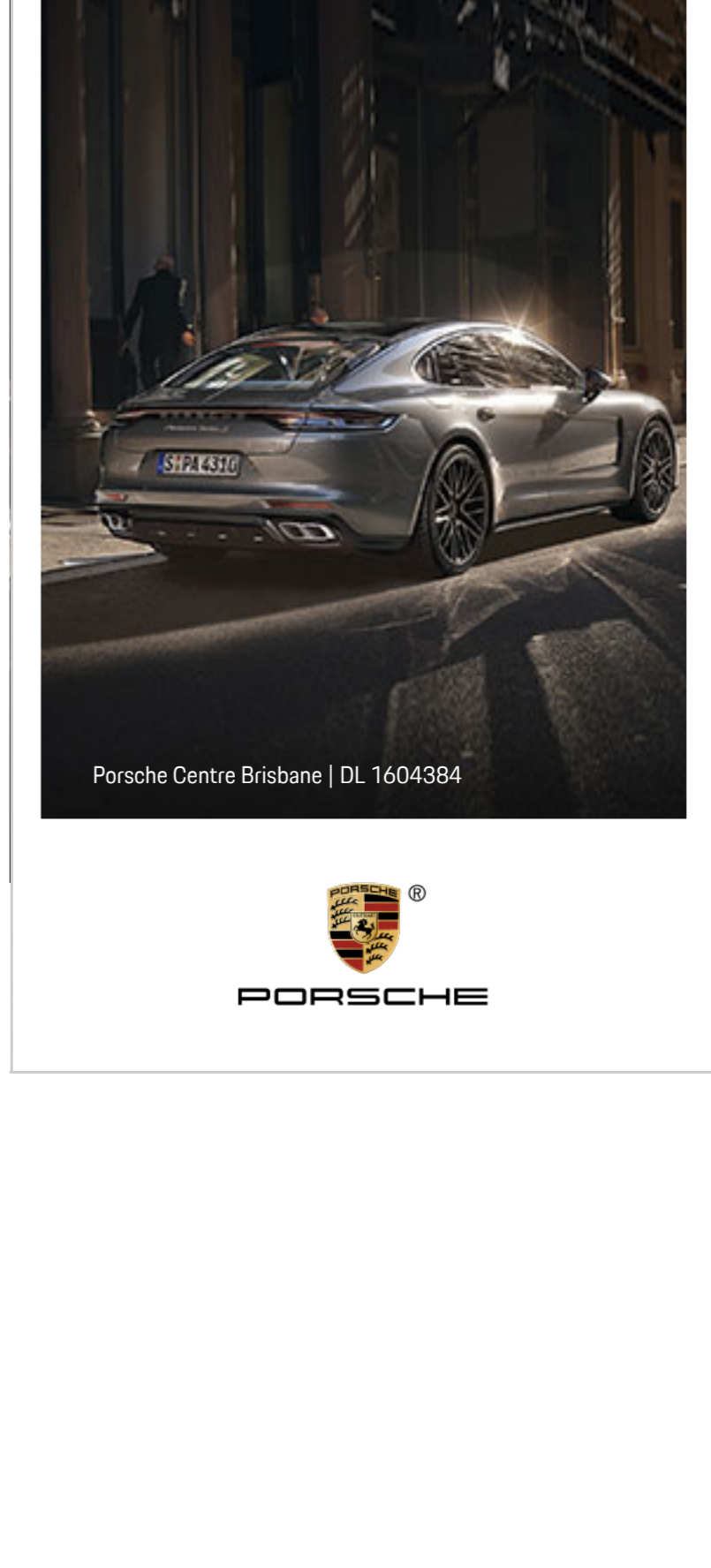
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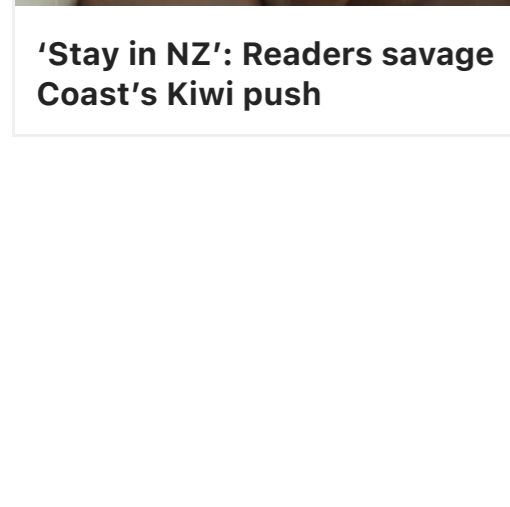
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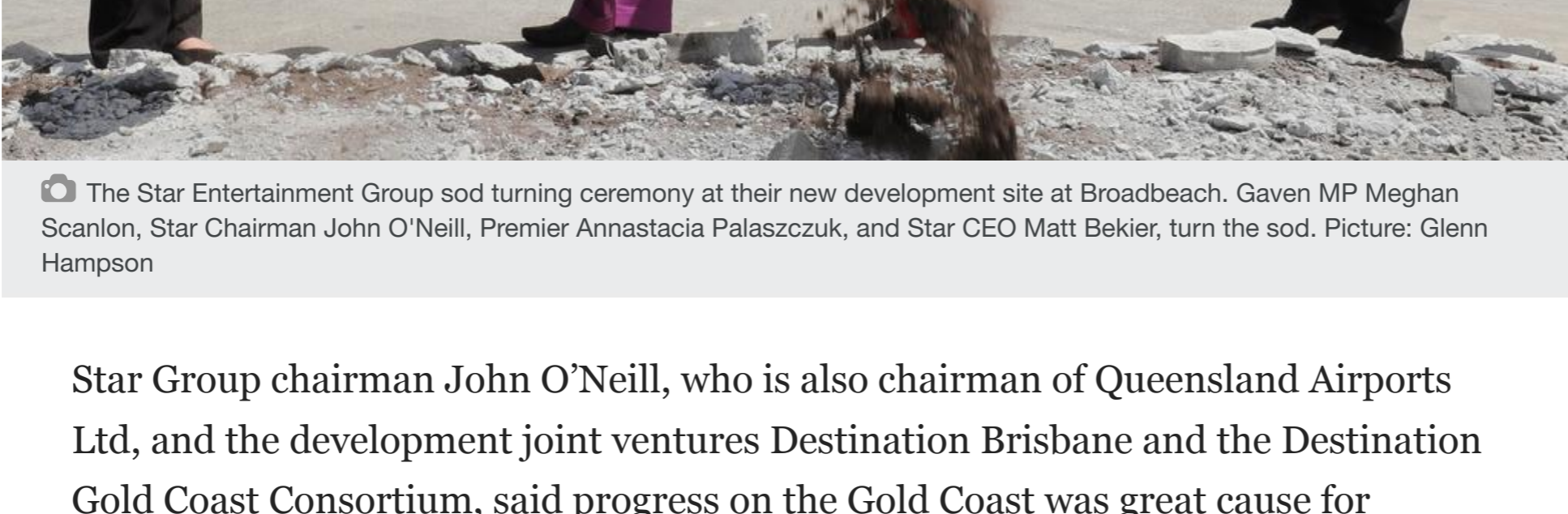
THE Star Gold Coast became a double construction site with building starting on a \$400 million, 63-storey tower on Broadbeach Island on Friday.

Work on the new tower starts as the adjacent Dorsett passes the halfway mark at 33 storeys, with a new floor added almost every week as it approaches its 53-floor pinnacle.

Turning the sod on the new tower, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said the projects would help cater for a mass migration to Queensland that saw 7000 new residents move here in the December quarter alone.

"Can you blame them? There is no better place," she said.

"The investment of Star on the Gold Coast is absolutely changing the landscape here. More towers means more jobs."



The Star Entertainment Group sod turning ceremony at their new development site at Broadbeach. Given MP Meghan Scanlon, Star Chairman John O'Neill, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, and Star CEO Matt Bekier, turn the sod. Picture: Glenn Hampson

Star Group chairman John O'Neill, who is also chairman of Queensland Airports Ltd, and the development joint ventures Destination Brisbane and the Destination Gold Coast Consortium, said progress on the Gold Coast was great cause for optimism after a tough year.

"It was only five years ago we only had one hotel here, and a property that was undergoing a much-needed refurbishment," he said.

"There had been no money spent on the old Jupiters in 35 years.

"Today we stand here ready to break ground on a 63-storey tower here on the Gold Coast."

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Mr O'Neill all but confirmed the Bulletin's revelation the tower was likely to house Marriott brand W Hotel.

"It's a tower that will house a core hotel - there's speculation in the Gold Coast Bulletin today that hotel may be the W.

"I've never argued with the Bully, I'm not going to start now and they might well be right - it could be the W," he said.

"In the past handful of years we have built and now operate the Darling, the Dorsett hotel and apartment tower. It's up to 33 storeys and has 22 to go.

"It certainly says we are committed to the Gold Coast and we are committed to Queensland.

"We remain confident about the future and the tourism industry will recover.

"It's been hammered, it's been smashed, but it will recover, and the Gold Coast will remain Australia's tourism diamond."

Mr O'Neill said The Star and its partners had committed around \$5 billion to tourism and entertainment infrastructure in five years.

"The best is yet to come."



John O'Neill, Chairman of The Star Entertainment Group, with his gold shovel. Picture: Glenn Hampson

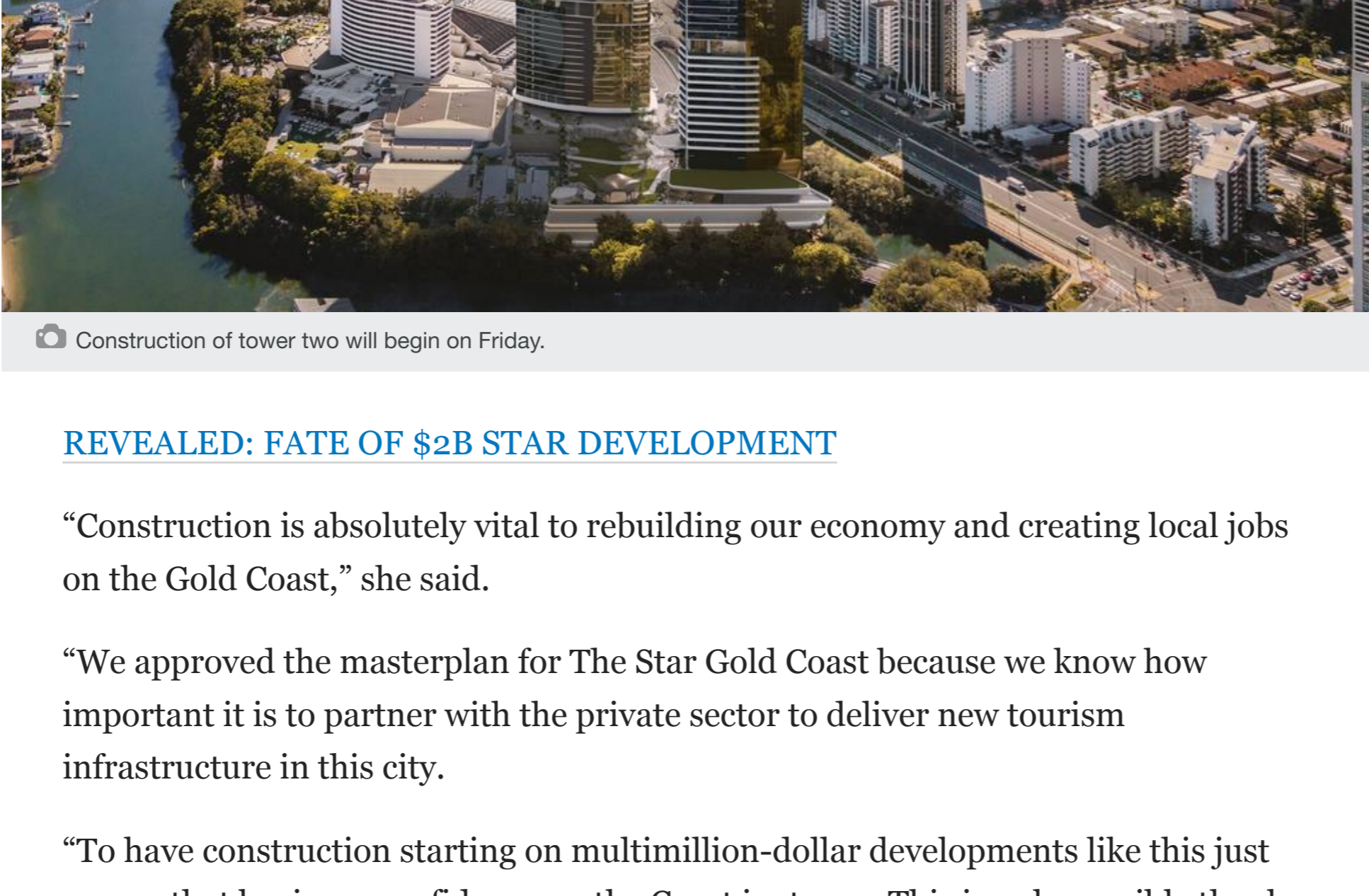
EARLIER: FEBRUARY 12

CONSTRUCTION of a \$400 million, 63-storey supertower will begin in Broadbeach today as its operator secures one of the world's foremost hotel brands to run it.

The Star Entertainment Group's unnamed "tower 2" is set to open in mid-late 2024.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said the project would create more than 1800 jobs during construction and a further 500 once completed.

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Construction of tower two will begin on Friday.

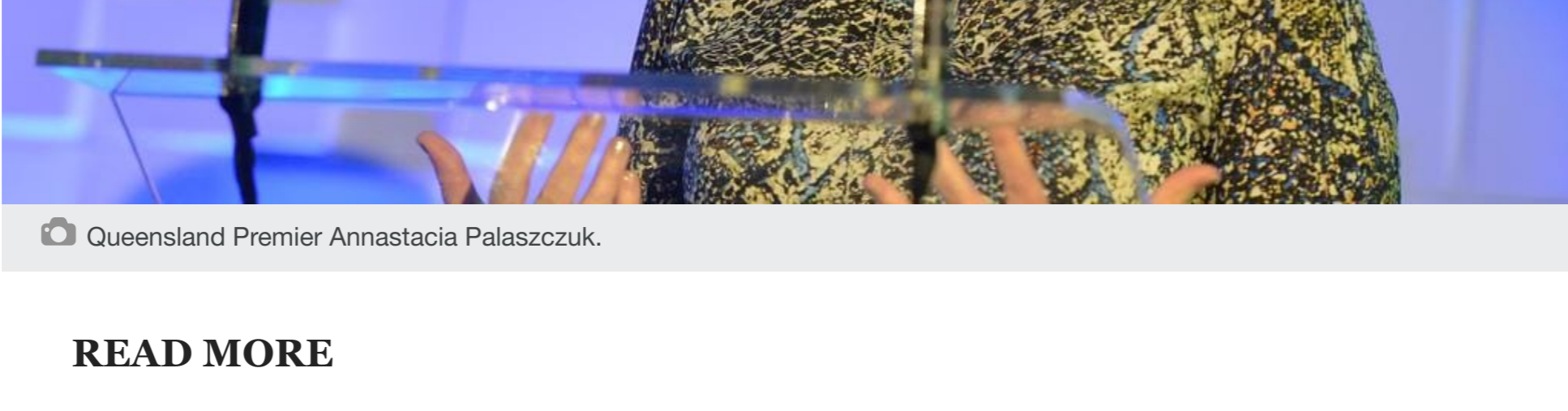
REVEALED: FATE OF \$2B STAR DEVELOPMENT

"Construction is absolutely vital to rebuilding our economy and creating local jobs on the Gold Coast," she said.

"We approved the masterplan for The Star Gold Coast because we know how important it is to partner with the private sector to deliver new tourism infrastructure in this city.

"To have construction starting on multimillion-dollar developments like this just proves that business confidence on the Coast is strong. This is only possible thanks to the way Queenslanders have responded to the coronavirus pandemic.

INCREDIBLE FEATURES INSIDE \$400M SUPERTOWER



Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

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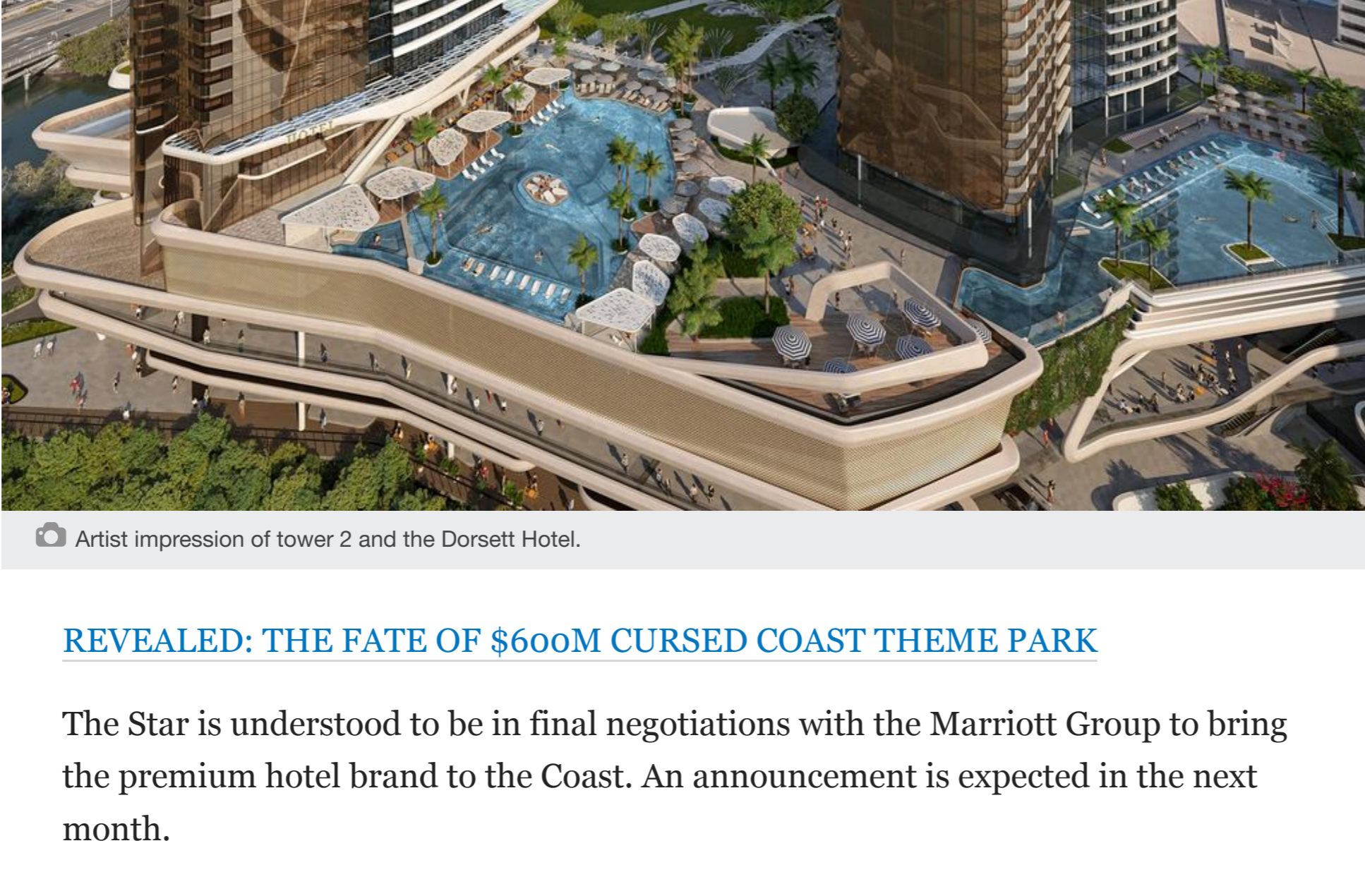
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"While other jurisdictions around the world continue to deal with deadly outbreaks of the virus, we're able to focus on rebuilding our economy - rolling up the sleeves and getting back to work with great projects like this one."

The sod-turning comes just three weeks after Star announced it would fast-track the project to be ready for the post-COVID era.

In a major coup, industry sources have told the Bulletin the tower will become home to the Gold Coast's first W Hotel.

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Artist impression of tower 2 and the Dorsett Hotel.

REVEALED: THE FATE OF \$600M CURSED COAST THEME PARK

The Star is understood to be in final negotiations with the Marriott Group to bring the premium hotel brand to the Coast. An announcement is expected in the next month.

There are more than 55 W hotels in 25 countries. One operates in Brisbane.

Star CEO Matt Bekier said the company had big plans for the region.

"We thank the Queensland government for supporting our vision," he said.

"We aim to be Australia's leading integrated resort company and we're developing properties on the Gold Coast and Brisbane that will be compelling must-see destinations for locals, interstate and international visitors."

WHEN WORK BEGINS ON COAST'S NEW \$1.5B 'MEGA SUBURB'



Star Entertainment Group chairman John O'Neill, and CEO Matt Bekier. Photographer: Liam Kidston.

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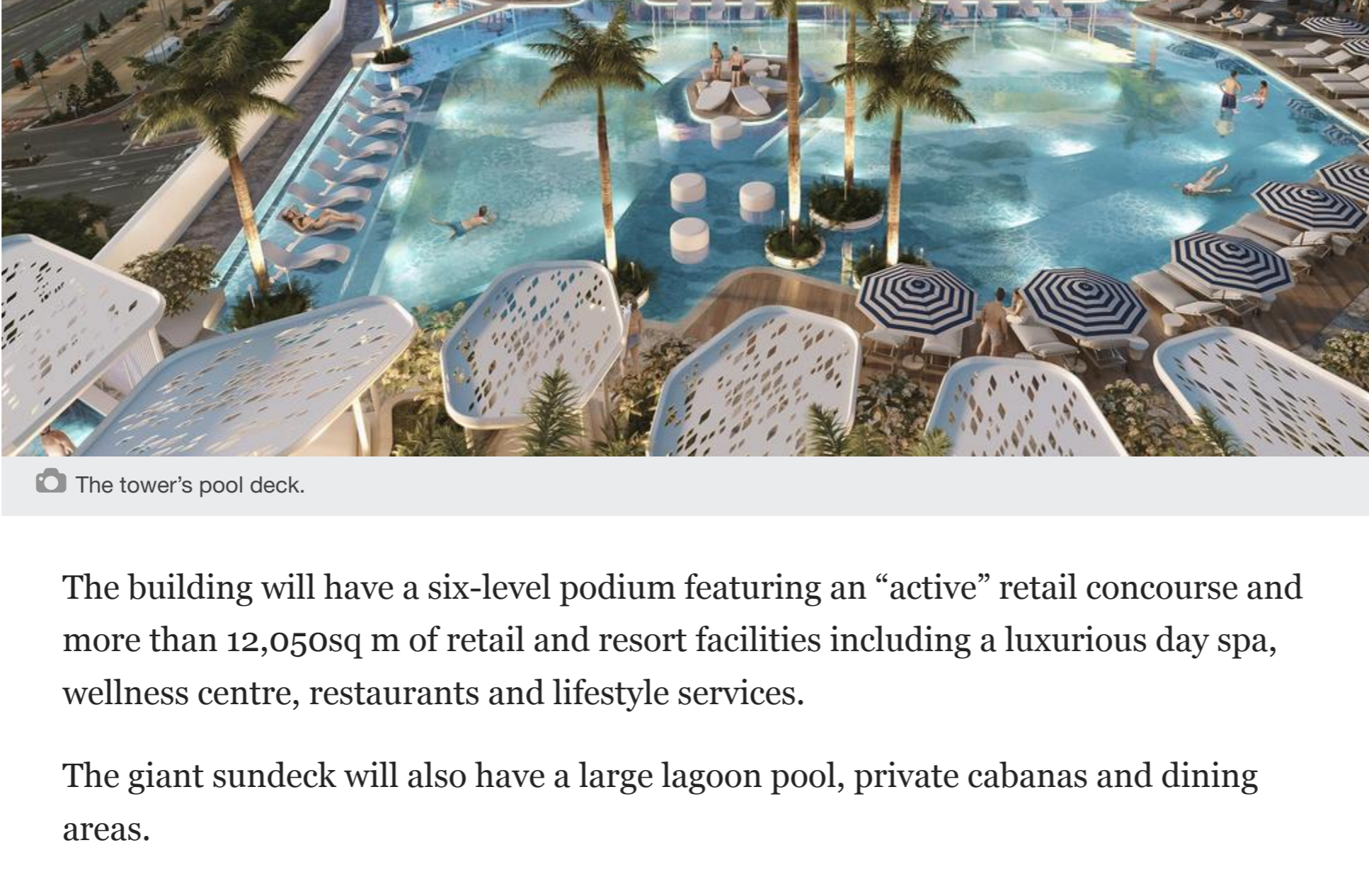
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The state government approved Star's \$2 billion masterplan in 2018. It allows for up to seven towers.

The 210 hotel rooms in Tower 2 will sit on the lower levels, while the residential component, known as Tower 2 Residences, will be on the upper floors.

More than 70 per cent of the one, two, and three-bedroom apartments have been sold since pre-sales began in May 2019.

Prices range from \$596,000 to about \$1.8 million.



The tower's pool deck.

The building will have a six-level podium featuring an "active" retail concourse and more than 12,050sq m of retail and resort facilities including a luxurious day spa, wellness centre, restaurants and lifestyle services.

The giant sundeck will also have a large lagoon pool, private cabanas and dining areas.

Global construction company Multiplex has been awarded the contract.

The Star's 54-storey Dorsett is under construction and will open in late 2022, following the existing Star Grand and Darling towers.

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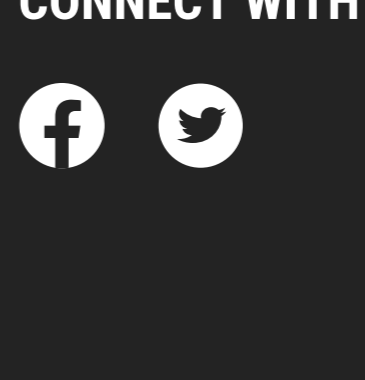
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