

900-home project slated for Ormeau

Shannon Willoughby

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STOCKLAND has unveiled bold plans to develop a massive 900-home residential community in Ormeau, the first major development announced for the Gold Coast in recent months.

The listed company plans to start building the master-planned community once council approves it.

While there is no dollar figure attached to the project, it could have an end value of about \$500 million, a significant investment for the fast-growing northern corridor.

Already, Stockland has built four residential communities in Gold Coast's north.

The parcel of land is one of the remaining undeveloped broadacre lots between the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

Council and Stockland will meet this week about the application amid concerns over the project's density.

But Stockland said 40 per cent of the site was public open space.

The future village is located near Stockland's Jacobs Ridge community, which has reached its final stages of development.

Stockland's Gold Coast regional manager Col Dutton said the company had lodged a development application for the proposed new community and invited public submissions.

Mr Dutton said Stockland had a major presence in the northern Gold Coast corridor with its Jacobs Ridge, Highland Reserve, Riverstone Crossing and Pacific Pines communities.

"Jacobs Ridge has been a very popular choice for new home buyers in the Ormeau region, but is now rapidly reaching completion," he said.

"Our proposed new Ormeau community is expected to provide more people with the chance to enjoy the excellent schools, shopping and leisure facilities in the area."

The location of the Ormeau region -- 25 minutes from Brisbane and close to retailers including Logan Hyperdome and Home Centre, and a Big W store at Beenleigh -- would prove popular for home buyers, said Mr Dutton.

He said that Stockland would be working closely with the Gold Coast City Council and the local community to deliver the project for the Ormeau region.

"The popularity of Stockland projects on the Gold Coast continues to grow with our track record for producing carefully planned and desirable new communities," he said.

Area councillor Donna Gates said she was meeting Stockland tomorrow to go over the final application.

She said council had a few concerns with some of the original plans and hoped the company had addressed this.

She also said there were several high-density communities surrounding the site.

"It's very tricky because the State Government is trying to ramp up density and Stockland are trying to meet the market," she said.

"It's a beautiful piece of land. We just have to be aware of the other residents who already live there and use the amenities.

"(But) Stockland have tried to engage council and a number of planners have been out there on the site."

The application comes as revelations Gold Coast City Council snubbed the fast-growing corridor in this year's budget.

There are no major infrastructure projects included in the city's building program from Helensvale to Coomera.

Cr Gates, who looks after more than 43sqkm in her division, said there would be 18 schools operating in her division by next year, boosting the need for better pedestrian and road access.

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