

# CITY TOWER FOR HIGHER LEARNING

**DAN KNOWLES**

Griffith University has unveiled a bold plan to transform the western end of the CBD with a new inner-city campus housed in a stunning 55-storey tower combining lecture theatres, workspaces and student accommodation.

The uni is in negotiations with the state government to build the tower (pictured) in the Cross River Rail Roma Street precinct for a project that would create hundreds of jobs during its \$280m construction and convert the sombre western end of the CBD into a vibrant student-fuelled 24/7 economy.

Griffith vice-chancellor Professor Carolyn Evans said the new campus would give Griffith a "front door" in the

city and include public spaces for the community. It would be a hub for the uni's IT, business and law schools and student accommodation. The uni plans to take up 15 of the 55 floors as well as giving it the chance to house companies who want to work with its students and graduates.

State Development Minister Kate Jones said the \$5.4bn Cross River Rail would make southeast Queensland one of the most connected regions in Australia and "having Griffith University in the heart of the CBD where thousands of local workers and students can take advantage" makes sense.

"As huge employers, universities will be crucial to Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19," Ms Jones said.

