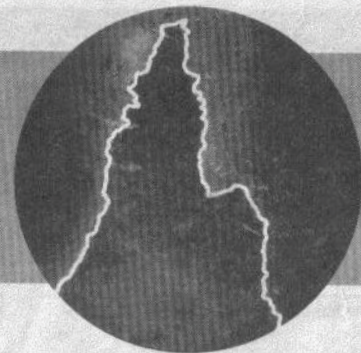


regionwide

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Commercial boost: An architect's sketch of the \$13 million supermarket and specialty stores proposed for the old silos site in Atherton. The redevelopment rests on approval from the Atherton Shire Council.

\$13m retail development 'confidence vote' in Atherton

PLANS are under way to demolish the old silos in Atherton and build an IGA store supported by speciality outlets.

The \$13 million redevelopment rests only on approval from the Atherton Shire Council.

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Scott said the new store would be owned and operated by IGA franchise owner Mike Shakes.

"The proposed redevelopment will provide Atherton with a new

high quality retail environment anchored by a 2700sqm Supa IGA supermarket, supported by 1000sqm of speciality outlets," he said.

"Strong interest in the specialty retail space has also been received from a number of national chain operators not presently

represented in Atherton."

Mr Scott said the new centre would employ about 140 staff, plus contractors for cleaning and maintenance and should provide a significant boost for the Atherton economy.

"The proposed \$13 million project represents a vote of

confidence in Atherton as the pre-eminent commercial centre for the Tableland," he said.

"The development application had been prepared in close consultation with senior council officers and elected representatives."