

Brookfield amazes judges with Hilton

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THE multi-award-winning Hilton Surfers Paradise Hotel and Residences has picked up another accolade.

The five-star, \$700 million tower has been named Australia's best tourism and leisure development at the 2013 Property Council of Australia/Rider Levett Bucknall Innovation and Excellence Awards.

The awards were announced at a gala dinner at The Star Event Centre in Sydney on Saturday night. The project's builder, Brookfield Multiplex, was presented with the Ryan Lawyers award for best tourism and leisure development for an exceptional landmark that proved a challenging project.

The Hilton project, initiated by the failed Raptis Group, was taken over by financier ANZ, which appointed developer Brookfield Multiplex to finish the project. The Hilton, completed in late 2011, comprises the 32-level Boulevard Tower and the 57-level Orchid Tower sharing 410 units, with Orchid Tower also home to a 169-suite Hilton Hotel.

Peter Verwer, the Property Council's chief executive, said the Hilton was well-deserving of national recognition for its innovative design and clever construction solutions.

"Brookfield Multiplex overcame the finan-

cial, legal, technical and delivery hurdles that had stalled the project," he said.

"The final product is the first luxury hotel to be built on the Gold Coast in a decade, a unique residential resort, a spectacular contribution to the Surfers Paradise skyline and an economic engine for the local economy."

He said the Hilton's two towers were striking and architecturally distinctive.

Mark Burow, managing director of Rider Levett Bucknall, said the project had provided a major economic boost to the Gold Coast economy, with an estimated direct benefit of \$2.2 billion.

"Brookfield Multiplex has delivered an exceptional tourist attraction and landmark, and has driven significant employment growth for the Gold Coast region, including 2000 new jobs directly related to the tourism and retail industries," he said.

The award adds to a string of gongs the Hilton has racked up including an Urban Taskforce Development Excellence award, Master Builders housing and construction awards, and an Australian Institute of Building excellence award.

Lend Lease's \$500 million Darling Quarter and Commonwealth Bank Place development in Sydney received four awards including the property industry's coveted "Gold Logie" for the Australian development of the year.

Another major winner was the \$1 billion Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, judged Australia's best public building of 2013.



The five-star Hilton Surfers Paradise Hotel and Residences chalks up another win.