



The transformation of the former Chevron Hotel site in the heart of Surfers Paradise is relying on the services of a Type 380 pilebreaker supplied by Steelcom.

Australia's largest pilebreaker goes to work on Gold Coast

The Type 380 has been available internationally for some time, but its use on Queensland's Chevron site signifies a first for the Australian construction industry.

The project is being undertaken by the Raptis Group's construction arm Rapticvic Contractors. It comprises a shopping village and three residential towers, known as the Chevron Renaissance Skyline Towers.

All three will be constructed on piles ranging from 900mm to 1500mm in diameter and specialised equipment was brought in to streamline the job.

Raptis Group specified a Type 380 pile breaker and Gold Coast Earthmoving, which was awarded the pile-breaking contract, became the first Australian firm to use a pile breaker of this size.

The circular pile breakers are highly modular systems that easily adjust to each pile diameter at site.

The Type 380 is the largest hydraulic pile breaker available, capable of breaking circular piles from 600mm to 1800mm in diameter.

The speed and low noise operation of the hydraulic pile breakers was a further benefit, especially in view of the dense city location of the development.

The breaking will leave the reinforcement intact and guarantee no cracks below the cut off level.

The process is many times faster than conventional jackhammer breaking and is fully controlled throughout its operation.

Steelcom, the Australian distributor of the Type 380, imported the unit specifically for the Chevron Renaissance project, and said that handling and maintenance of the pile breaker was easy as it did not require specialist skills.

The Chevron Renaissance Shopping Village was opened in October 2000 and work is now