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EARTHWORKS: Construction of SunCentral, Maroochydore.

PHOTO: WARREN LYNAM

Digging for the Coast's future

CREWS are digging deep at Maroochydore's new CBD construction site to lay the pipes needed to service the new city.

More than 1km of sewerage pipes have been laid since major civil works began in late April and developer SunCentral expects 2km of stormwater pipes will also soon be in the ground.

SunCentral CEO John Knaggs said water mains and an underground automated waste collection system were also being installed.

Construction of a new sewer pump station has also started.

"Fortunately, we haven't encountered any major problems," Mr Knaggs said.

"The teamwork between SunCentral and our

contractors, Shadforths and Cardno, has been great and excellent progress has been made."

He said there were about 50 workers on the 53-hectare site but that would double when roadworks began in about three months.

"We will be building eight intersecting roads and work on that scale involves significant manpower," he said.

People should be able to drive, walk and cycle through the northern part of the site by the middle of next year.

He said additional effort was needed to refine the installation process of the underground waste system but it had only a minimal effect on the works schedule.

"Civil construction of this stage is on track for

completion in autumn 2018," Mr Knaggs said.

He said the current excavation works were crucial to laying down "the most technologically-advanced foundations of any city centre in Australia".

"We can install up-to-date and innovative infrastructure that would simply not be practical in established CBDs," he said.

Conduits for three separate telecommunication systems – NBN Co, Telstra and the new CBD's dedicated Smart City fibre optic network – are also being installed.

"These will ensure the city centre has unrivalled connectivity without the disruption to roads and utilities often involved in installing broadband services," Mr Knaggs said.