



City heart being built on strong foundation

Outline of new CBD about to take shape in 2018

IT has been a huge year in the development of the new Maroochydoore City Centre. The 53ha greenfield site at the heart of Aerodrome Rd, Maud St, Dalton Dr, Plaza Pde and Maroochy Blvd has been a blur of activity throughout 2017, with the completion of the first stage of bulk earthworks followed by the start of civil construction.

The \$25million civil construction program is supporting around 150 jobs on the Coast – the first of many thousands of employment opportunities to be created by the new CBD in the years ahead.

SunCentral CEO John Knaggs said civil construction on the core commercial precinct has gone to schedule and almost all of the underground infrastructure in the first stage has been installed, including telecommunications conduits, water and sewerage mains and the underground automated waste collection system.

A first for Australia, the underground automated waste collection system is in place and in the midst of being covered. Rubbish will be sucked underground, negating the need for

collection trucks to enter the vicinity.

"The site is being transformed and in coming months we will see the beginning of landscaping and road building works," Mr Knaggs said. "Next year people will begin to see the outline of the new CBD for themselves, with the first new city streets set to open and construction of the first buildings to begin in 2018.

"The most significant moment of the year was the announcement of our negotiations with the John Holland Group over its proposal to develop five urban blocks in the heart of the CBD.

"John Holland is one of a small number of tier one property development companies in Australia and its commitment to the new Maroochydoore CBD has sent a powerful signal

to the market in Queensland and nationally.

"The project has always had positive support and interest from the private and public sectors, but the momentum we are building now is substantial and very encouraging.

"We're also talking to other development companies and potential investors and we'll be

able to reveal more details about their specific plans as contracts are finalised next year.

"The Sunshine Coast Regional Council has opened expressions of interest for the international submarine broadband cable project and will begin assessing submissions in January. This is a bold and innovative project and I believe its potential benefit for the new CBD will be immense.

"With the cable landing on the Sunshine Coast and connecting to the Maroochydoore City Centre first, it will turbo-charge internet connectivity and help attract businesses and organisations that need to process huge volumes of data quickly.

"It means the CBD can offer a major competitive advantage to companies in the technology, media, e-commerce and finance sectors, as well as in health, education and research.

"It will be another major first for Maroochydoore and the Sunshine Coast. We may be smaller than Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, but nowhere else is thinking bigger than the Coast right now."



SHAPING THE FUTURE: SunCentral CEO John Knaggs points out the progress being made on the new Maroochydore CBD. PHOTO: ERLÉ LEVEY

