

“Essendon Fields” becomes a suburb in its own right

Media Release

Wednesday 20 August 2008

Essendon Fields has just received news that it has been gazetted a new suburb with a Victorian postcode 3041.

Essendon Fields Chief Executive Officer Rob Whitwell said "this is one of a series of positive steps associated with the redevelopment of Essendon Airport".

“In addition to being granted suburb status, we are delighted to announce ‘Auto Centro’ a new Motor Vehicle Precinct has commenced operations. Already a significant numbers of cars have been sold in the first week of operation.”

Dealers located on site are Toyota, Honda, Hyundai, Chrysler Jeep Dodge and as of Monday 25 August, Mazda will begin operations. A very strong ‘take up’ of sites has been evident and a new dealership facility for Ford is under construction and due to open mid October.

In addition to this, Essendon Fields has entered into a Heads of Agreement to provide office accommodation for Insurance Manufacturers Australia Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of IAG and will occupy approximately 2,500sqm of office accommodation.

This space will be occupied by IMA as of July 2009 and construction work will begin within the next six weeks.

“We are particularly excited about this project as it incorporates the preservation and renovation of one of the original Beaufort Bomber Manufacturing buildings. This office project will see in excess of 200 new employment opportunities in Moonee Valley.”

The airport is currently assessing a town planning application for the development of a entertainment/exhibition/function centre and licensed restaurant on Bulla Road, adjacent to DFO & Homemaker Hub facilities. This development is expected to create around 200 full time equivalent jobs and will provide an enhanced level of services for businesses, in particular for trade shows and promotions, wedding receptions and a much enhanced level of dining for visitors to the site.

Currently under construction is a 6,000sqm office building to become the National Headquarters for Linfox. This new building is due to be completed in December 2008 with Linfox occupying the building in early 2009.

“We believe these are a series of significant steps towards the realisation of this dynamic North-West suburban business community and retail hub that is set to bring material economic benefit to the entire community,” Mr Whitwell said.

Essendon Fields was made possible after the purchase in 2001 of a 99-year lease over Essendon Airport as a joint-venture deal between Linfox Property Group and the Beck Corporation.

Essendon Fields House was officially opened 24 May 2007 at 7 English Street, Essendon Fields, Victoria.

We welcome you to attend a full briefing session at Essendon Fields House today at 3.30pm where Max Beck and Rob Whitwell will be available for interview or any photo opportunity as required.

For media enquiries, please contact Hugh Martin on 0422 031 859.

