

\$500m park landing at Essendon Airport - The Age 30/5/07

Three major car dealerships in Melbourne's north will relocate to a \$500 million commercial park at Essendon Airport, along with several large corporate tenants.

Essendon Fields is a 75-hectare business and industrial park backed by veteran property developer Max Beck and the Linfox Property Group.

The Toyota, Honda and Mazda dealerships will be located side by side on Wirraway Road, in the north of the precinct.

Essendon Fields Chief Executive Rob Whitwell said the three motor vehicle dealerships would amount to 25,000 square metres, but the area would eventually have up to 100,000 sq m of car yards with eight or nine major dealers.

"What we are establishing there is an 'auto alley'. It will be a significant new-car precinct." Mr Whitwell said.

He said the three dealerships were all relocating from Niddrie. Building would start soon and was expected to be finished in the first half of 2008, he said.

BusinessDay can also reveal:

- The developers will build a 4500 sq m mail delivery centre for Australia Post, to open later this year.
- Linfox Logistics will exclusively occupy a 5500 sq m building currently under construction for it's Melbourne headquarters. The company will relocate from Clayton.
- Building will start within two months on a 5000 sq m 4.5-to-5-star green rated speculative office block.
- Supermarket giant Coles will anchor the 10,000 sq m retail development, which includes 15 specialty shops and 700 sq m of office above. The shopping centre will open in November.

The developers last week opened Essendon Fields House, a \$9.5 million 4.5-star green-rated office building at the site. The Essendon Fields developers and Matthews Steer Chartered Accountants will occupy it.

Two government tenants are in final negotiations to lease space in the rest of the building.

The Linfox Property Group and the Beck Corporation bought the rights for a 99-year lease over Essendon Airport in 2001.



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