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BUSINESS PROPERTY

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New shopping centre opens its doors

A SHOPPING centre in the Tweed coast township of Casuarina Beach that has been under construction for the best part of a year welcomed its first customers this week.

The \$25 million facility, Casuarina Village Shopping Centre, is anchored by a 2500sq m Coles supermarket, the largest in the Tweed area south of the Tweed City centre.

It opened for business on Wednesday.

The Casuarina centre has 12 speciality retail outlets and operational businesses include a cafe-bakery, medical practice, travel agency, hair salon, bottleshop, and butcher.

Additional businesses, including a pharmacy, veterinary clinic, beautician, real estate agency and food outlets, are to open over coming weeks.

The centre's full complement of tenants expected to be operational by late March.

The centre has more than 230 car spaces and sits at the junction of Grand Parade and Casuarina Way, which links north and central residential villages of Casuarina Beach and connects it to the adjoining Salt Village.

Construction of the \$25 million Casuarina Village Shopping Centre began last April on the back of years of planning.

The project has been undertaken by Casuarina Beach master-developer Consolidated Properties in partnership CVS Lane Capital Partners.

Its supermarket boasts a market-style fresh produce

section, delicatessen and in-store bakery.

Consolidated Properties executive chairman Don O'Rorke said the hub was the centrepiece of Casuarina Beach's town centre precinct.

"The opening of Coles at Casuarina Village provides greater convenience and choice for residents and adds to the region's infrastructure and amenity to help cater for population growth," he said.

"We have been very strategic in the selection of our tenants, with the aim of providing a different mix of retail and services from what is already available in the region.

"Hutchinson Builders has done an outstanding job, completing the project ahead of schedule and to a high standard, as has architect firm Thomson Adsett, which designed the centre to maximise convenience and accessibility."

Coles store manager Steve Meli, who brings more than 20 years' experience to the role, said he had been excited to open the store's doors for the first time.

"I have been living and working in the Tweed for seven years and previously managed the Coles stores at Tweed City and Banora Point," he said.

"The Casuarina store brings to shoppers a new supermarket that has a fantastic market-style feel."

Mr Meli said 70 people worked at the new store, some of them new staffers and oth-

ers who had transferred to the new outlet from Coles stores in the region.

Casuarina Village generated about 225 jobs in the construction phase and will now provide more than 100 jobs.



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Don O'Rorke with Coles store manager Steve Meli at Casuarina Village ahead of the centre's opening.