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Another massive year for Maroochydore's new CBD

Queensland will soon be winding down for summer but across the Sunshine Coast, local businesses will be stepping up a gear for the peak tourism season.

We won't be slackening the pace at SunCentral either, as we round off a huge year in the development of the new Maroochydore City Centre.

The site 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 \$25m 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.

About 95 per cent of the first stage of the CBD's underground infrastructure has now been installed, including telecommunications conduits, water and sewerage mains and the underground automated waste collection system. And progress on other fronts in 2017 has been just as impressive.

Sunshine Coast Council announced it would establish its new headquarters in the Maroochydore City Centre and in August, John Holland Group, one of Australia's largest construction, infrastructure and property development companies, unveiled a proposal to develop five 'super-lots' in the CBD.

John Holland, SunCentral, the Council and the University of the Sunshine Coast have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a \$200m deal which includes development of the new Council building, new teaching facilities and student accommodation for the university, and three prime commercial lots.

John Holland's involvement is a major vote of confidence in the vision for the Maroochydore CBD and the future of the Sunshine Coast more broadly. The Expressions of Interest launched by SunCentral generated an impressive response from the private sector and I hope to reveal more about the progress of commercial negotiations in the months ahead. In addition, news that Expressions of Interest have opened for the Sunshine Coast Council's international sub-sea broadband cable project is likely to attract national and even international attention. It would be the only broadband cable on the East Coast of Australia outside Sydney and will connect directly to the CBD site, providing New York internet speed to our new city centre before lighting up the rest of South East Queensland – a significant drawcard in the digital era.

There's plenty to come next year, with asphalt and paving being laid on the first new city streets, a new park being created in the heart of the commercial precinct, work commencing on a striking new waterway and the first buildings starting to emerge.

You can find all our latest news at maroochydorecity.com.au and at Facebook.com/thebrightcity. You are also welcome to contact the team on 5452 7274 or email admin@ suncentralmaroochydore.com.au if you have any questions or would like more information.

Finally, I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and prosperous 2018. I'm sure it's going to be another wonderful year for this exciting project and the Sunshine Coast!

Kind regards,

John Knaggs Chief Executive Officer November/December 2017

