

## **Greater Springfield welcomes 2014 with \$200M retail and education expansion**

Queensland's fastest emerging new city today welcomed news that Mirvac will commence construction in March on a major expansion to its existing Orion Springfield Shopping Centre. A \$154m investment will see Event Cinemas build the largest cine-complex in the region as part of the 390ha Springfield Central CBD.

Coles and Target with their latest large format store designs will also join a further 80 new specialty outlets including additional fashion, cafes and restaurants, as well as community services and conveniences. A further 1200 car parks will be provided. The development is expected to create approximately 440 construction related jobs and more than 700 retail jobs on completion in 2015.

Greater Springfield founder and city planner Maha Sinnathamby said the retail expansion was more evidence of the further economic and population explosion that was strongly tipped to follow the opening of the state government's \$1.2bn rail and transport hub which commenced operation in December.

"More than 49,000 passengers have used that terrific rail service over the past few weeks alone, even during the holiday period, bringing customers and others to this city's six thriving suburbs. He said.

"This latest news, which is hot on the heels of names like GE and the Brisbane Lions announcing their move to Greater Springfield says something very strongly about the confidence that big business, as well as mums and dads, have in doing well here."

Mr Sinnathamby said Mirvac's \$154m investment is part of an estimated \$700m which is currently being spent or about to be spent on construction in the city.

The University of Southern Queensland has also confirmed a \$45m spend to double the size of its impressive Greater Springfield campus with the support of \$41.9m from the Australian Government's Education Investment Fund (EIF).

"The many schools, the university, the hospital and the rail, none of this is by accident," Mr Sinnathamby reminded today. "This is all part of the master plan for Greater Springfield which was declared World's Best in 2010. A design that is expressly founded upon pillars of education, health and technology."

Mr Sinnathamby added that it was this design and a vision being realised that has attracted more than \$9.7bn in private and public investment so far and the ongoing support of all three levels of government.

We want this to be a part of nation building – an example of what real long-term planning can achieve."