

Prime Site

School's in at Education City



PLEASED with cornerstone ...
Raynuha Sinnathamby.

Michelle Hele

SPRINGFIELD'S education city has finally become a reality with the first students starting classes in the new University of Southern Queensland Campus.

The university occupies a six-storey building in the heart of the education city precinct.

Eight buildings are now complete or nearing completion in the first \$80 million stage of the development.

Springfield Land Corporation deputy managing director Raynuha Sinnathamby said it was good to see the long-planned pre-

cinct become a reality. "We always said education has to be a cornerstone of this community," she said.

She said that surveys of residents revealed one of the top reasons for moving into the area was because of the promised education facilities.

Education City sits on an 18ha parcel of land. In addition to the university campus and 350-seat auditorium, stage one includes a multi-education building, called the World Knowledge Centre. A childcare building which will also house a child-care workers' training facility is nearing completion and the finishing touches are being put to a two-level retail build-

ing, which will house a bar, eatery, cafe, convenience store and commercial office space.

Students already have moved into the first of three student accommodation buildings currently under construction. The other two are expected to be completed soon.

Ms Sinnathamby said the first stage of the student accommodation area would house 110 students, but provision had been made to ultimately offer housing for 750 students.

Units in the accommodation will range from two to seven bedrooms.

Ms Sinnathamby said each room had a kitchenette and there

were common rooms. She was pleased the development had come together so quickly in the past 12 months.

Education City sits between the enormous Orion shopping centre, where it is hoped the first stage will be completed by April next year. A pathway through parklands will lead from the education precinct to the shopping centre.

On the other side is the proposed CBD, in which construction of the first commercial building is hoped to be completed by late next year. Ms Sinnathamby said the commercial building, to be known as Polaris, would be 10 storeys high.