



Westgate opens up jobs creation

By GEOFF EGAN

THOSE in the long-term unemployment queue have been handed a lifeline with the news that work will soon start on the \$350 million Metroplex Westgate development located in Wacol.

The development is set to create 10,000 jobs over its lifetime and that boost comes at a time when unemployment is at its highest level in years locally.

The Metroplex project will cover a total of 60 hectares, including 250,000sq m of floor space and 19 hectares of green space, at the former Wacol Army Barracks.

Metroplex Westgate will be about twice the size of the already developed Metroplex Murarrie. Stage one of the project, Metroplex South, will be finished by the end of the year with the first tenants expected to set up shop in 2015.

The project will be built by developer Metroplex and real estate investment trust GPT Group.

GPT head commercial and industrial development John Thomas said the project had already attracted strong interest from clients.

"The scope of the project, its central location and the tight supply of large-scale industrial lots in this corri-

dor all form to make Metroplex Westgate a compelling investment," he said.

"The development has already received strong interest from both national and international tenants."

Alongside industrial space, Westgate Metroplex is expected to include a "mixed industry business area" comprising a retail and commercial precinct with 6000sq m of floor space.

It will include a childcare centre, fitness clubs, a medical centre and pharmacy, and supermarket.

A civic square will be provided for gatherings and performances.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said the development would go ahead immediately and was a vote of confidence in the economy.

"The fact it will support up to 10,000 workers is an indication of the significance of this project," Cr Quirk said.

"If the award-winning Metroplex Gateway at Murarrie is a guide, Metroplex Westgate will be a resounding success."

Cr Quirk said stage one was expected to be finished by December, and would become a major driver of the economy in the western corridor.

 **Lord Mayor
Graham Quirk**

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GOING AHEAD: GPT Group head of development John Thomas and Peter MacGregor from Metroplex at the announcement of the first stage of Metroplex Westgate. ROB WILLIAMS