



ON THE WAY: An artist's impression of how the colossal Harvey Norman project in Maroochy Boulevard will look after completion. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Retail precinct to generate 400 jobs

By **OWEN JACQUES**

owen.jacques@scnews.com.au

WHEN shovels hit soil along Maroochy Boulevard early next year, it will mark the start of a \$110 million project and the creation of up to 400 jobs.

The colossal Harvey Norman project is expected to be finished before the end of 2012, creating 32,000sq m of floor space over two storeys and making the finished product about half the size of the Sunshine Plaza.

The furniture and electronics powerhouse will absorb almost a quarter of that space at 8000sqm, and its Domayne counterpart will take up a further 4500sq m.

Below will be a 900-space

car park and above will be a combination of office space, retailers and a gymnasium.

Back on ground level, there will be a restaurant, a cafe and a list of retailers that is yet to be finalised.

Harvey Norman property general manager James Scott said the store would become "the flagship for South-East Queensland", although it was not as large as its counterpart on the Gold Coast.

"There's an undersupply of large format retail on the Sunshine Coast," Mr Scott said.

"Harvey Norman wants to open its latest store to service the region."

The future of its Minyama site is less certain, but Mr

Scott said the property "would be retained" by the company but it may be a different brand that lands on the site.

Aside from Domayne and Harvey Norman, the corporation also includes electronics discounter Joyce Mayne, although Mr Scott said no final decision had been made on that brand having a presence in the new complex which backs on to the Horton Park Golf Club.

For the 5000sqm of office space that is up for lease, Hayley Donnelly from Savills Sunshine Coast said "advanced negotiations" were under way with a group looking to take almost half of that.

She said she was not surprised by the interest taken in the site because it was close to both the Sunshine Plaza and the future Maroochy CBD, and had easy access to highways north and south.

"It's one of the larger projects on the Sunshine Coast," she said.

Companies could also lease an area as small as 250sq m, and Ms Donnelly said it was a chance to have a foothold in an area that would soon be in full bloom.

"It's a unique opportunity for local and national businesses to position themselves for future growth in this rapidly emerging and high profile precinct," she said.