



Harvey inspires interest

NATIONAL and local businesses are queuing up to join retailing giant Harvey Norman in its new \$110 million commercial development in central Maroochydore.

A company spokesperson said close to 100% of the 27,900sqm of showroom space had been committed to, despite the centre not opening until 2008.

As well as being the owner, developer and manager, Harvey Norman will be the anchor tenant

in the complex, taking 10,000sqm for one its new-design superstores, while the remaining space will be split into tenancies ranging in size from 600sqm to 3800sqm.

"Basically all the space is spoken for ... putting a 10,000sqm national tenant in a site like this quickly attracts quality tenants," the spokesperson said.

The development will also include 4300sqm of office space above the single-level showrooms, a 240sqm restaurant and basement

parking for 855 cars.

The Wises Farm master plan also allows for up to six-storeys of residential on the five hectare site, the spokesperson saying the company "would like to provide some residential sometime down the track".

He also said the Mega Flooring Depot outlet at the Sunshine Homemaker Centre on Maroochydore Road would relocate into the proposed Harvey Norman Superstore, while the existing store on the

Nicklin Way at Minyama would continue to operate for the long term.

He said the company was "very positive" about the development.

Evan Dickson, general manager of Wises Farm developer, Chardan Group, said a total of 14 hectares had been set aside for mixed use, including the commercial projects, fronting both sides of Maroochy Boulevard. "We'll have another three hectares on the same side as the Harvey Norman development

... that will include more showrooms, perhaps residential, and we'd also like to get a hotel in there," he said.

"On the other side of the road we'll have more showrooms again, hopefully some medical uses, some residential and community facilities." Wises Farm is one of Australia's largest community developments and will eventually be home to 6000 people. The first homes are expected to be completed in 2009.

