

# Woolies moves into hot suburb

**TESSA HAYWARD and  
NATHAN MAWBY**

SHOPS are coming to Warralily.

The first sod was turned at the \$100 million commercial precinct in Armstrong Creek yesterday.

Woolworths is set to be the anchor tenant of the precinct, which is to be called Warralily Village.

Representatives from the supermarket giant joined



**John Robinson and Darryn Lyons.** Picture: MITCH BEAR

example of Geelong delivering

Mayor Darryn Lyons, Warralily directors Mark Whinfield and Mark Casey, and South Barwon MP Andrew Katos at yesterday's event.

About 200 jobs will be created to build the mix of specialty shops, cafes, office spaces, school and sports facilities for the growth hub.

Woolworths regional property manager John Robinson said the company had committed millions to the Geelong region.

"We are fully committed to the Geelong area having recently invested \$2 million to refurbish our Corio supermarket, and welcoming our first customers to the \$22 million development in Curlewis and the \$20.5 million development in Barrabool Hills," Mr Robinson said.

The Armstrong Creek store's construction is to start next April, and finish in the second half of 2017.

Cr Lyons lauded the ongoing development of Armstrong Creek.

"Warralily is just a great

example of Geelong delivering best practice urban design and the results are going to show that," he said.

Data shows work on house and unit renovations and building across Geelong has grown almost \$50 million across the past two financial years.

The Victorian Building Authority statistics show a \$35.8 million (5.2 per cent) lift in the value of all domestic works, and a \$13.6 million (78.2 per cent) lift in the value of works on apartments, townhouses, units and student accommodation across the region.

Warralily general manager Mr Whinfield said the lift in home building and renovation figures paralleled the busiest year yet for the development.

Derek and Sarah Zabriskie moved to the estate six months ago from Shepparton with their son, Mace, 18 months, and will be among the first to enjoy the commercial hub.

"The school is going to be awesome when my son is old enough to attend, as I will just walk there, it is very convenient," Ms Zabriskie said.