

Government projects boost Dandenong

Scott Elliott

The revitalisation of Dandenong in Melbourne's south-east is taking shape, courtesy of a government-led building program that aims to realign the suburb as a commercial and administrative hub.

Two new commercial developments totalling \$95 million are spearheading the turnaround, thanks to leasing commitments from government tenants.

The \$55 million government services building on the corner of Thomas and Walker streets will be

built by Grocon under a deal announced yesterday.

The A-grade office building of 14,100 square metres will house four state government departments.

VicUrban chief executive Pru Sanderson said the private sector was starting to take notice of Dandenong.

"That Grocon has seen fit to invest in Dandenong is evidence that the work undertaken by VicUrban and council . . . is creating viable commercial development opportunities, the likes of which have not been seen here for many years," she said.

The first portion of Deal Corp's \$40 million Arkana development, which consists of 4900 square metres of office space, 56 apartments and a conference facility for up to 250 people, is set to be occupied from November.

The office component comprises the first large-scale buildings completed in central Dandenong for more than 20 years.

The commercial building is 90 per cent leased to the the State Trustees (1780 square metres) and the commonwealth government of Australia through the Department

of Human Services (2250 square metres).

"Dandenong is rapidly emerging as one of Melbourne's most significant new markets . . . the industrial market is driving significant business investment and new residential and infrastructure development. And the opening of EastLink is rapidly transforming access to the region," said Deal Corp managing director David Kobritz.

The Revitalising Central Dandenong initiative aims to attract more than \$1 billion of private investment over the next two decades.

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