



WRAPPED VENDOR: An excited Dom Casagrande prepares his stock for the grand opening of Coorparoo Markets this week.

Trade jolt at junction

JUNCTION JOY: MARKETS OPENING BOOSTS SHOPPING OPTIONS AT COORPAROO

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MORE than 20,000 shoppers are expected to flock to the new food and retail mecca Coorparoo Markets when it opens this Thursday in the old Myer building.

With almost 400 fresh food, clothing and housing goods stalls, the all-weather markets are the centrepiece of a

short-term plan to revitalise Coorparoo junction.

Managing director Frank Dragani said the markets would rival any in Brisbane and would prove a boon for the residents of Coorparoo.

Mr Dragani said intensive work had gone into renovating the building and selecting suitable traders.

"We've put thousands and thousands of man hours into

this and we've got a few more to go," he said.

"We had more than 1700 expressions of interest for the 400 stalls. The traders can't wait for this to happen. We're chock-a-block."

Mr Dragani had planned to call them Myer Markets, but the retailer objected.

He said Greenslopes MP Cameron Dick and other community members had endorsed the name change.

"Myer prevented us using anything that resembles their name, which is

understandable," Mr Dragani said.

Mr Dick said the markets would provide residents with a new shopping option and bring real benefits to traders in the area.

"This is another vote of confidence in the future of Coorparoo junction and I wish the markets' operators all the best for their new venture," he said.

South-East Brisbane Chamber of Commerce president Penny Cutting said the markets were a brilliant

idea, but had concerns over local infrastructure and parking.

She said the markets would have widespread appeal and could offer affordable food for lower-income families.

"We needed something like this on this side of town," she said.

"But if people can't get a park, they might not come back."

The markets' food and produce section will be open 6am to 6pm, and the variety stalls 9am to 6pm.