



## **Shopping heaven as region embraces \$93m retail boost**

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STOCKLAND Rockhampton opened its doors on Thursday August 13 to thousands of local residents and visitors who lined up to see the stage one opening of the \$93m redevelopment.

Customers, local council and community stake holders joined in the opening celebrations which started with an official opening ceremony which included guest speaker the Mayor, Councillor Brad Carter, and local school involvement and a traditional "Welcome to Country" performance by Dharumbal dancers.

Centre manager Brett Leonard said the day was a complete success, with tens of thousands of customers coming through the doors all day.

"We wanted to thank Rockhampton for all its support and hope everyone enjoys the new centre."

Stockland Rockhampton team has worked hard to deliver a centre that meets the retail needs of residents in Rockhampton and the wider community.

Stage 1 opening included 38 specialty stores of which more than 20 were first time retailers to Rockhampton. New retailers included: Donut King, Jetts Fitness Rockhampton, Zarraffas Coffee, Autograph, The Coffee Club, Roger David, Foxx Foe, Ally Fashion, Silver Shop, Diva, Butterfly Silver, Dusk, Novo Shoes, Bras N Things, yd, Tarocash, The Perfume Connection, Mystique Jewellers, My Shop, Witchery, Forever New, Dotti, Zellos, Wombat, Valley Girl, Temt, The Body Shop, The Sunglass Hut, Angus & Robertson and JB Hi-Fi.

In addition, a new fresh food precinct opened outside Coles and Kmart with the relocation of local operators Lenards, Healthy Life and Reid Liquor, and Wayne's World of Meats.

Existing retailers Sussan, Sportsgirl and Katies also relocated in stage 1, now located on the retail bridge outside The Coffee Club, Millers, Supre, Strandbags and Sunnygirl will undergo a shuffle within the centre, due to open later this year.

The centre now boasts a 24-hour gym with Jetts Fitness Rockhampton opening, and a brand new Medical Centre, both located on ground level under the new Coles and Kmart.

Once complete the development will leave customers very little need to head south to find a better variety of higher-end fashion, gifts and homewares. With a solid mix of national and local retailers, and an additional three mini-majors planned, Stockland Rockhampton will provide a benchmark of retail activity for the region.

"This should see flow on effects to employment, tourism and other developments in the area with an estimated 400 retail employment opportunities and approximately 455 construction jobs provided for throughout the development;" Brett said.