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# Daily Mercury

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# PAGET'S RETAIL THERAPY VISION

\$60m development at industrial hub to include a restaurant, post office and shops

By **OWEN JACQUES**  
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FEEL like a latte with your heavy industry?

A \$60 million project in Mackay's industrial epicentre, Paget, will offer exactly that, with plans released yesterday detailing a retail and commercial hub for the booming suburb, supporting up to 160 jobs.

The Paget Central development will be built at the corner of Iridium and Cen-

tral Park drives with a licensed restaurant or cafe, bank, chemist, post office, medical practice and convenience store.

Project manager with Ray White Commercial, Stuart Higgins, said the goal was to provide support for Paget as it continued to sprawl further away from Mackay City.

"Paget needs this to support its workforce and the industry," Mr Higgins said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



An artist's impression of the \$60m Paget Central precinct planned for Mackay's industrial hub. It will include a bank, post office, restaurant and medical practice when it is finished in 2011.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



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# Second year as regional Australia's best Harley Davidson dealer Bike lovers drive sales to the top

By **FALLON HUDSON**  
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IF there is one distinct feature of a Harley Davidson motorcycle it would have to be the rumble of the engine as the rider sinks into the seat, grabs the handlebars and hits the highway.

And it seems Mackay has fallen in love with the motorcycle lifestyle, with Mackay Motorcycles being named the number one regional Harley Davidson dealer in Australia for the second year running.

Mackay Motorcycles dealer principal Peter Baldwin said Mackay in the past year had sold four times as many Harley Davidsons than Brisbane.

He said motorcycles and, in particular, Harley Davidsons were popular because

of the lifestyle they promoted.

"In Mackay, bar the last eight weeks of wet weather, riders love to get on their bikes and head up to Airlie Beach - it is a social thing for many people.

"Our sales went up by 36 per cent last year and our numbers have increased, making us one of the heavy-weight Harley Davidson dealerships, which is pretty good for a population of 80,000 plus.

"It is such a big achievement, it is fantastic. But as the saying goes you are only as good as the people behind you - 90 per cent of our staff ride a motorbike and are living the dream," he said.

Mr Baldwin said the popularity of the Harley Davidson in Mackay was definitely the breadwinner for the

business.

Many of those who had purchased a Harley from the store were members of the Mackay and District Harley Owners Group (HOG), which now has more than 160 members.

"When people think of HOG they think it is an outlaw bikie group, but it is not about that at all. In fact, many members are those going through a midlife crisis, husbands and wives and those who just love to ride."

Mr Baldwin said Mackay Motorcycles would be moving to new premises at the City Gates and was in the final stages of approving plans and finding a builder.

"We are hoping to be in the new store by the end of next year and will be double in size," he said.



Mackay Motorcycles dealer principal Peter Baldwin said the popularity of the Harley Davidson in Mackay was definitely the breadwinner for his business.

PHOTO: AMANDA BALMER 260209/140

## Restaurant, shops for \$60m Paget development

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"We need to lift the quality of the area."

He said for most workers in Paget at the moment, even simple errands required a drive to the City Heart.

Construction could begin as early as next year after Mackay Regional Council approved the concept plans.

The project has also been welcomed by Paget business-

es that believe the building of such facilities was long overdue.

Sales and marketing manager for engineering powerhouse HMG Westhill, Rodger Doudney, described it as an "excellent idea".

"We're forever having people wander off during work hours," he said.

"Lots of hours are lost because guys have to run

errands during the day.

"And we often get customers come in, either locally or from interstate, and to be able to pop around the corner to have a bit of lunch in a neutral atmosphere would be great."

He said with so many Paget businesses doing deals with one another and networking, the neutral meeting place would be ideal.

Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC) chief executive officer Narelle Pearse said it was just another sign that Mackay was powering on.

"You don't invest \$60 million in something you're unsure about," Ms Pearse said.

"Any type of investment in the region just adds to the confidence levels."

Mr Higgins backed Ms Pearse's comments, saying there was an "underlying confidence in mining".

"I think it's very good news for the region and we need the boost at the moment".

The first stage of the development, planned to be finished by 2011, also would feature industrial units and office space.

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