

BUSINESS\$ \$ WEEKLY

Industry's big wheels

By **KATE BASTABLE**

Kate.Bastable@dailymercury.com.au

THE global financial crisis might have temporarily put the brakes on a few industrial projects in Mackay, but things appear to be picking up, with developers starting earthworks on Evolution Paget Industrial Park this week.

Developer Mirvac has approved commencement of the first stage of the 30-hectare industrial precinct, on the corner of Boundary Road and Broad-sound Road.

Mirvac development director Mark Goodman said the company was encouraged by Mackay's positive market indications and a high level of enquiry.

The company had temporarily put the project on hold due to the global economic downturn, however, it was now full steam ahead, he said.

"Mackay seems to have a great appetite from those end users that largely service the mining industry," Mr Goodman said.

"Like most big institutions, the financial crisis has had an impact on the

availability of capital, but that's freed up now and Mirvac has a big appetite to invest again."

Mr Goodman said people could either purchase land or purchase a complete package that included land, design, authority approvals and construction.

Mirvac was upgrading Boundary Road as part of the first stage of the development, Mr Goodman said.

Mackay civil contractor Vella Constructions is doing the earthworks and LJ Hooker Mackay's Des Besanko and Knight Frank's Bill Doughty will market the project.

Mr Doughty said the site offered excellent access and exposure to the Bruce Highway, presenting an ideal opportunity for companies to build their businesses. Mr Besanko said that despite a difficult economic climate, the industrial market had remained active with numerous companies relocating or establishing new facilities in the Paget area over the last year. The subdivision is expected to be complete by mid-2010.



LJ Hooker's Andrew Leach, left, Knight Frank's Bill Doughty, Mirvac development manager John Ponturo, Mirvac development director Mark Goodman and LJ Hooker's Des Besanko at the Evolution Paget Industrial Park site.

PHOTO: AMANDA BALMER 151009/554