

Park and ride now moving

By Meredith Clisby

CONSTRUCTION on the long-awaited park-and-ride facility at Calwell Shopping Centre will begin by the end of this month.

The ACT government has announced that local contractor Tread Lightly Earth Moving has been awarded the \$500,000 contract for construction of the project.

The facility, located on the corner of Johnson Drive and Were Street, will include an extra 60 parking spaces for commuters adjacent to the Calwell Club's parking area.

South East Tuggeranong Residents Association welcomed the news that work would begin on the site after relaying concerns earlier in the year about the government's commitment over the facility.

The park and ride was supposed to have been completed by July this year.

Member for Brindabella, Joy Burch said the project should be finished by Christmas or early next year.

She said the expanded parking would benefit both commuters and visitors to the club because the peak times were different parts of the day.

Ms Burch said it was another example of the ACT government working with local residents and business owners to provide much needed services and amenities.

"Park and ride facilities have proven to be very successful across Canberra and they provide Canberrans with a reliable, affordable alternative to car travel," she said.

Calwell Group Centre spokesman Nick Tsoulas said the additional car parking would allow visitors to the club an alternative to parking at the shopping centre.

Extra room for shoppers to park would assist residents and local businesses.

Mr Tsoulas said there would also be opportunities in the future for tourist buses to pick passengers up from the park and ride.

"This is something that obviously we'll work on with the government, and [Tuggeranong] council and other groups," he said. "There's a lot that can happen here, this is just the beginning."

The park-and-ride facility, which will also offer bike lockers, is located near the bus stops on Johnston Drive and Were Street.

Buses are scheduled to arrive at these stops every 20 minutes during the peak period and every 30 minutes during off-peak times.



Member for Brindabella Joy Burch with Russ Morison, Nick Tsoulas and Frank Vrins who are pleased construction on the Calwell Park and Ride will begin soon.

Picture: Elizabeth