



READY TO GO: The Sunshine Cove development team is ready for the project to take off in 2010. PHOTO: CADE MOONEY/CM188080

Cove buyers in by Christmas

THE key players behind the much-hyped Sunshine Cove development at Maroochydore have presented a united front in the face of its apparent slow progress – with the first residents forecast to move in by Christmas.

Insisting the 106-hectare mixed-use development next to Sunshine Plaza – unveiled to much fanfare in 2004 – was on schedule, they met with the Daily this week to insist 2010 was the year the public would see the \$800 million project blossom.

Sunshine Cove Realty's Penny Service pointed to the development's initial residential release on Monday as a sign the Chardan Development Group's ambitious master-planned community was about to



take off.

Ms Service said the 72 freehold sites went straight to the database and would be released to the public in two weeks.

"I don't think it's been slower than expected," she said.

"It's important to let everyone know we're all on the board.

"There's just a process

we have to work through. We're on track – we're happy where we are now.

In October, 2007, Chardan development manager Glen Cassidy said the \$100 million earthworks stage of the project – to become home to 6000 people – was due for completion in 12 months, with the first home lots released soon after.

Mr Cassidy said this week that the development's infrastructure was starting to take shape, including roads and landscaping.

"People have been driving past the site and have not been seeing a great deal of action," he said.

"But there's been a substantial amount of work going on."

Supporting Ms Service and Mr Cassidy's comments is Harvey Norman's

plans to soon start construction of its \$80 million superstore and retail complex at Sunshine Cove.

Amid the global financial crisis last year, Harvey Norman executive chairman Gerry Harvey told the Daily the project had been put on hold.

But a spokesman for the company said this week that it hoped to open the 35,000sq m complex by Easter next year.

"Imminent," he said when asked when construction would begin.

Reed Property Group development general manager Carl Nancarrow said the company's \$250 million mixed-use Emporio project had so far recorded 45 sales. Mr Nancarrow said Reed began its marketing campaign on the back of "significant interest".