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HOOKED ON A FEELING

Construction has started on Ashbury estate – the newest addition to the Armstrong Creek landscape.

Federal MP Sarah Henderson turned the first sod at the 1400-lot development, paving the way for work to start on the master-planned community.

The housing estate, off Boundary and Horseshoe Bend roads, will cover 123 hectares and is expected to eventually be home to about 4000 people.

Plans for Ashbury include a future shopping centre, state primary school, 18 kilometres of cycling tracks and several sports ovals.

Dennis Family Corporation is working in partnership with the land owners to develop the site.

Executive chairman Grant Dennis says the estate has been 10 years in the making. He says interest is strong, with 53 lots sold before the official turning of the sod.

“We are strengthening the identity of Armstrong Creek as a growing community,” he says. “This area is going to be a very good location to do a development such as this and the community to further expand.

“We are between Geelong and the Surf Coast and it’s a fabulous location for everybody.”

Grant says Ashbury will be an important part of the Armstrong Creek community and offer facilities where families can spend quality time together.

It will also retain some of the landscape’s rural character, including keeping existing hollow-bearing trees as a habitat for wildlife.

Hoopers Paddock will become a conservation area that sits between the two main sections of housing.

Adam Halliday will be one of the first new Ashbury residents after buying land in the first stage.

He says he was attracted to the overall amenity of the project, particularly its parklands and open space.

“We just liked the feel of its parks and walking tracks,” he says.

“We go a lot on feeling, and it felt like there

was a lot of integrity in the project and that was important to us.”

He will move from Bannockburn and is looking forward to being closer to family in Torquay and services and shopping in nearby Waurin Ponds.

Sarah Henderson says the Ashbury development is another boost for the Armstrong Creek growth area.

“It’s really quite inspiring and I have no doubt that many, many families will collectively realise how significant this is as a growth area,” she says.

But she says the area’s rapid growth highlights the importance of investing in infrastructure such as rail and roads to support the new communities.

“I talk about the importance of jobs and infrastructure – they go hand in hand,” she says. “We can’t grow jobs and we can’t bring families here if we don’t have infrastructure.” ●

NICOLE MAYNE

“IT FELT LIKE THERE WAS A LOT OF INTEGRITY IN THE PROJECT” – ADAM HALLIDAY



