



# Wraps off Cairns Square

David Sexton

sextond@tcp.newsltd.com.au

AFTER months of demolition and reconstruction, Tropical Arcade at the corner of Shield and Abbott streets looks close to reopening.

Owners the Juniper Group have had much of the ground floor ripped out and shop spaces built and windows installed for their new Cairns Square project.

The Juniper Group has so far declined to comment on the project and whether there has been much interest in renting at the arcade.

Already, advertisements have been erected seeking potential lessees and it is understood some leases already have been organised.

It is expected the arcade will operate with a mixture of shops, offices and a food court along with 124 car park spaces.

CBD councillor Alan Blake said the upgrade

was welcome at a time when the economy was going through a flat patch.

"It's part of a general tidy-up of the city and is a welcome improvement," Cr Blake told Business Week.

"We look forward to it being fully-tenanted.

"This project has provided welcome jobs for the construction industry and of course there will be jobs there in the retail sector long term."

Cr Blake said the extra car-parking space also was welcome.

Chamber of commerce president Jeremy Blockey said the refurbished arcade would be "a useful addition to the CBD".

"It's a great part of the city, close to the gallery, Esplanade and City Place," he said.

"It really is a very strategic piece of real estate."



Shops and offices for lease: Tropical Arcade in the centre of the CBD has undergone a major redevelopment and is close to reopening.

Picture: CHRIS HYDE