



PLAY TIME: Tyson Morgan, 10, and his sister Makayla, 5, enjoy the new playground at DFOOD at DFO Cairns.

Picture: ANNA ROGERS

Families flock to new playground at DFO

ALICIA NALLY

ARMED with an ethos of "build it and they will come", Sentinel Property Group managing director Warren Ebert is confident the new DFOOD attraction at DFO Cairns will be a popular destination for the city's families.

Work on the children's playground and outdoor area, which is touted to be leased on occasions to host food vans and festival-style events, has

finished just in time for the school holidays.

DFOOD, a twist on the suburban food court offering, includes new parents' room facilities, upgrades to entrances and toilet facilities and more stores and entertainment options for local families.

Hutchinson Builders has removed the first level of the carpark closest to Mulgrave Rd and the remainder of the multi-level carpark will stay intact with a new entry and

exit to be relocated via the World Gym ramp.

The works are part of an overhaul of the shopping destination which started almost 12 months ago.

Mr Ebert said it was difficult to nail down local tenants, but he hoped once the renovations were completed, Far Northern retailers would fill the remaining few tenancies.

"We have got an office block at 139 Grafton St and we've invested \$300 million in

central and north Queensland," he said.

"I see a very good decade ahead for central and north Queensland.

"The Esplanade - that's for tourists, the parking is difficult and it's a bit expensive.

"We want this space to be for locals.

"There is a big-screen TV where people can gather to watch big games or events.

"We wanted something family friendly."