A strip of airport land along McMillans Road will be transformed over the next 20 years to include modern offices, shops, commercial showrooms, child care, restaurants and gyms.

Chief Executive Officer of Darwin International Airport Ian Kew said the development, branded AXIS 12°130°, would include attractive landscaping similar to the area around Bunnings, public art, cycle paths and walkways and links to the Rapid Creek Conservation Corridor and nearby suburbs.

The precinct will be developed over the next 15 to 20 years, depending on market demand, he said.

The first project on the drawing board is a $100 million home and lifestyle centre that is expected to attract several new retailers to Darwin.

Mr Kew said Darwin International Airport had been planning the precinct for two years but the launch of AXIS 12°130° had been deferred because of the global financial crisis.

“We are now out in the marketplace and investors and property developers are impressed by Darwin’s strong economic growth, by the opportunities we are offering and by the strategic location of this commercial development, right in the heart of Darwin,” Mr Kew said.
Elements of the project
- Homewares and Lifestyle Centre
- an integrated mix of shops, offices and leisure facilities
- modern offices surrounded by greeneries and open spaces
- plentiful parking
- a new road from McMillans Road to improve access to the precinct
- reliable technology, including underground power and the latest in telecommunications connections
- environmentally sustainable design
- access to childcare for working parents.

More on AXIS 12°30°

The AXIS 12°30° development will cover 60 hectares of prime real estate in the heart of Darwin, providing the ideal office address for people living in the northern suburbs, a central venue for well-travelled company executives and a shoppers’ paradise for all of Darwin.

The space equates to about half the Central Business District (the land bounded by McMinn, Bennett and Daly Streets and the Esplanade).

“We think this is a visionary, master-planned development that will attract investment from around Australia and the Asia Pacific,” said Chief Executive Officer Ian Kew.

AXIS 12°30° will be developed in stages over the next 20 years and promoted as an ‘inspiring urban habitat’ for hand-picked tenants.

“A strong economy and prospective major developments, such as INPEX’s proposed LNG plant, have put Darwin well and truly on the map,” Mr Kew said.

“We have been testing the concept with key developers and investors around Australia and their response has been encouraging,” he said.

“The precinct will meet a gap in the market at a time when Darwin is poised for significant growth, the Government’s 2030 strategy is planning for more decentralised development, and the sophisticated consumer is looking for well-appointed commercial space,” he said.

The development is in accord with the airport’s master plan, which has been circulated for widespread community consultation.

The land was also earmarked for development by the Australian Government when the airport was privatised and sold to Darwin International Airport 10 years ago, Mr Kew said.

“The AXIS 12°30° development continues the transformation of the strip of land between Bagot Road and

An inspiring urban habitat
www.axis1230.com.au
Charles Eaton Drive that started with the Bunnings development,” Mr Kew said. “I think people have seen the Bunnings environs thrive, supported by Greening Australia’s landscaping plan that relies on strong use of native species.”

“We will continue that approach, with a focus on providing attractive surrounds, walking and cycling paths and links to the Rapid Creek conservation zone,” he said.

Darwin International Airport has a strong track record as a developer and business partner, with projects such as the Darwin Airport Resort, Darwin Airport Inn, Bunnings and several Australian Government offices on its land.

AXIS 12°130° will offer its inhabitants a perfect mix of amenities for people to meet, relax and go about their business.
What does master-planning mean?
A master plan is an urban vision of the future that everyone can share, said airport CEO Ian Kew.

“Rather than buildings popping up like different coloured mushrooms, a master-planned development is themed, with thoughtful design guidelines, building height limits, attractive public spaces, roads, cycle paths and walkways – all plotted on a map before the first sod is turned,” he said.

“This means the first tenants in don’t have to worry about putting in the underground power and telecommunications cabling. They will have a pretty good idea of what sort of neighbours are likely to build next door and confidence about the value of their properties.

“We are calling this development an ‘inspiring urban habitat’ because all your lifestyle needs should be at your fingertips, providing a great work-life balance,” Mr Kew said.

“You can cycle to work from the northern suburbs, leave your kids at child care, cruise into your work car park and walk into a modern, spacious, well-equipped office.

“At lunchtime you can catch up with friends over coffee, shop till you drop or read in the cool public spaces.

“After work, you can pop into the gym, walk to the Rapid Creek Conservation Corridor for exercise, then dine with colleagues as they wait for an interstate flight,” he said.

“Just as anyone buying units at the Darwin Waterfront Redevelopment knows they will have access to wave pools, beaches, cafes and shops, anyone moving into the AXIS precinct knows they will have good infrastructure, a pleasant working environment and an easy drive to work,” Mr Kew said.

“The advantage of a master-planned approach is the thought we have put into creating the precinct, the quality infrastructure and the high standards we will set to ensure compatible developments and attractive surrounds,” Mr Kew said.

When will work start?
The AXIS 12°130° development will take 15 to 20 years to complete, depending on market demand.

The first project is likely to be a home and lifestyle centre, which is essentially a large shopping mall with the sorts of retailers who need large showrooms.

Darwin International Airport is negotiating with several potential developers and expects to start building the centre in 2011, with the first tenants moving in by the end of 2012.

At least one office building should be completed by the same time.

Nearby residents will see initial infrastructure being developed, such as a new entrance road, underground power and telecommunications connections and landscaping.

X marks the Spot!
Residents will have seen the big X signs appear like bookends at either end of the precinct in the past few weeks.

The name AXIS 12°130° signifies a central location, both in Darwin and the Asia Pacific region, as well as Darwin’s coordinates.

When it comes to positioning your business address, Darwin’s coordinates are second to none!

More Information
For more information on the AXIS 12°130° development, visit the project website at www.axis12130.com.au, call 8927 1355 or email info@axis12130.com.au