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City looks to expand on southern fringe

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NEW ESTATE Mayor says development will help tackle Tamworth's housing shortage City looks to expand on southern fringe

Tom Plevy

MORE than 3000 people will move out to Tamworth's southern fringe over the next 12 years, as the city looks to expand.

The first sod was turned on a major new housing estate at Hillvue on Wednesday, July 15.

John Grey, general manager of Maas, the developers behind the Arcadia estate, said that stages 1 and 2 were

under civil construction.

Calling it a "strategically designed master-planned community", Mr Grey said Arcadia would have a variety of housing available, from large freestanding homes to duplexes.

"That's really going to support a diversified popula-

tion," Mr Grey said.

"And it's a real opportunity to entice people from other major or metro centres to be able to have a regional lifestyle." The 1300-plus homes will be spread out over 932 lots on 156 hectares, done in 37 stages.

"By this time next year, we should see the first houses starting to pop up," Mr Grey said.

The development will contain two parks, as well as smaller "pocket parks", with Burkes Gully along the north-eastern edge being activated as a recreational zone to form a "green spine" for the development.

Mr Grey also promised bike paths, retail and hospi-

talities venues, and childcare as the development grows, and thanked the council for its support.

"The council in every way, shape, or form, has been really accommodating, and has worked with us every step of the way," Mr Grey said.

Mayor Russell Webb said Arcadia was something the city really needed to help tackle Tamworth's housing shortage.

"It's great news for the city, great news for the businesses," Cr Webb said.

"We're recognised, economically, as one of the fastest-growing regional cities in NSW - I'm very excited about the future of this city."

The development wouldn't

have happened without the council's Blueprint 100 and its "strategic forethought".

"It really identified in early 2020 the growth demands for new housing, and identified future housing shortages," Cr Webb said.

Tamworth MP Kevin Anderson said Arcadia showed the confidence developers can have in Tamworth, saying it's proof the city is a safe place to invest, reflecting the confidence that residents already had.

"The community confidence in Tamworth is super strong," Mr Anderson said.