



## NEWS

# Big Top parking limit puts Maroochydore workers in a bind



Kathy Sundstrom | 22nd Jan 2015 8:19 AM

ALL-day parking is about to get even more difficult to find in the Maroochydore CBD.

People who have been enjoying the use of the many parks at the Big Top shopping centre while at work will have to find a new place to park their cars.

With the opening of Big Top Market Fresh planned for Easter, Reed Property Group will enforce three-hour maximum parking limits. While this will be a boon for shoppers looking to browse through the new Big Top Market Fresh shopping centre, it will be a bind for those who have enjoyed the use of the four-level carpark.

A partner Worrells Solvency and Forensic Accountants, Anita Owens, said it was becoming increasingly difficult for staff to find a park in Maroochydore.

Ms Owens said since the construction of the Mike Ahern Centre in First Ave, parking had been a nightmare for staff.

"With continued development being approved in the CBD, surely there must be some duty of care by the council to ensure adequate long-term carparks are available for the additional workers that come with that development," she said.

"Calls to the council have not provided any suggestions or solutions. Public transport is not an option for many staff as they live outside the zones that make that viable."

Divisional councillor Jason O'Pray did not think it likely the situation with long-term carparks would change.

"We will not be getting any more all-day car parking," he said.

"All businesses want parking for their customers."

Cr O'Pray said it had been a "terrible decision" to approve the Mike Ahern building with fewer carparks than required under the town plan.

"There is a lot to be answered for there. They allowed for minimal carparks, but have bike racks for staff to come in.

"The bike racks are still shiny brand new and hardly ever used. People drive cars to work."

Cr O'Pray said he would like to see the area in front of the Maroochydore courthouse become a multi-storey car park.



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