

# Official Commencement Ceremony Marks Major Milestone for Villa Estate – Cowra

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Aland Pty Ltd & AEG are pleased to announce that the **Official Commencement Ceremony** for **Villa Estate – Cowra** was held this morning at the project site in Cowra, marking a significant milestone in the delivery of this important regional housing development.



*Left to Right :- Leigh Browne (Burbank-Site Supervisor), Ben Webster (Bunnings-GM), Hon Michael McCormack (Federal Member), Bill Smith (Cowra Shire Council-Mayor), Alex Brinkmeyer (Aland Pty Ltd MD, AEG-Chairman), Mark Brown (Burbank-CEO)*

The ceremony was attended by **Aland Pty Ltd Managing Director** and **AEG Chairman, Mr Alex Brinkmeyer**, the **Hon Michael McCormack MP**, Federal Member for Riverina, **Paul Smith**, Mayor of Cowra Shire Council, **Mr Paul Devery**, General Manager of Cowra Shire Council, **Mr Mark Browne**, NSW CEO of Burbank Homes, and **Mr Ben Webster**, General Manager of Bunnings.

The event commenced with an informal breakfast, generously provided by **Mr Ben Webster and the Cowra Bunnings team**. The breakfast brought together the AEG Board members, dignitaries, project partners, suppliers, Burbank representatives and locally recruited tradespeople to discuss the significance of the project and the long-term benefits it will deliver for Cowra and the wider region.

Discussions focused on the scale of the investment being made in Cowra's housing stock, the importance of supporting local employment, and the opportunity for Villa Estate – Cowra to attract new residents from surrounding cities and regional areas. The project represents a major investment in regional housing and is expected to deliver meaningful economic, employment and social benefits throughout construction and beyond.

The **Hon Michael McCormack MP** expressed strong interest in the employment and housing outcomes that the project will deliver for the region. He acknowledged the foresight shown by Mr Alex Brinkmeyer in identifying the potential of Cowra and the wider region as a destination for lifestyle, retirement and investment. Mr McCormack also recognised Burbank Homes' commitment to engaging local trades and suppliers wherever possible and noted the important role of Cowra Shire Council as a progressive and constructive council to work with in enabling developments of this nature.



*Left to Right :- Paul Devery (CSC-GM), Jeff McCormack (Bunnings-Corp. Affairs), Ben Webster (Bunnings-GM), Cameron Jones (Bunnings-Sales Manager), Hon Michael McCormack (Federal Member), Bill Smith (Cowra Shire Council-Mayor),*

Mr Alex Brinkmeyer outlined the vision for Villa Estate – Cowra and the range of housing and community facilities proposed as part of the development. He described his long-term vision for Cowra to become a leading regional retirement and lifestyle hub, supported by quality housing, well-planned community facilities and strong local partnerships.

Mr Brinkmeyer emphasised that the successful progression of the project has been made possible through the combined efforts of the entire project team, including the productive development approval process with Cowra Shire Council, the commitment shown by Burbank Homes as the project builder, and the support of Bunnings as a major local supplier.



*Left to Right :- Alex Baird (Aland Pty Ltd-Director of Development, AEG-Non-Exec Director), Mark Brown (Burbank-CEO), Alex Brinkmeyer (Aland Pty Ltd MD, AEG-Chairman)*

**Mr Alex Baird** Director of Development, Planning & Engineering for Aland Pty Ltd and Non-Executive Director at AEG, spoke to the broader masterplan for the development, including Aland Pty Ltd and AEG's commitment to progressing Development Applications for **Stages 2, 3 and 4**, together with the proposed **Village Wellness Precinct**. He announced that Aland Pty Ltd and AEG are committed to delivering the Village Wellness Precinct in conjunction with Stage 1 of the dwelling construction. This additional commitment expands the project from the initial **107 dwellings** to approximately **400 dwellings**, representing an even greater investment in Cowra and a significant further boost to the local economy.

Mayor Paul Smith expressed his appreciation to Mr Brinkmeyer and AEG for their commitment to the town and people of Cowra. He spoke of his strong belief in Cowra's future and acknowledged that Villa Estate – Cowra will play an important role in supporting the town's long-term sustainability, growth and liveability.

Mr Mark Browne, NSW CEO of Burbank Homes, thanked all attendees, including the suppliers and trades present, and reaffirmed Burbank's commitment to the successful delivery of the project and to supporting the local economy. He noted that the appointment of Bunnings as a major supplier of building materials will generate significant ongoing business for the Cowra Bunnings store over the coming years, supporting local employment, business activity and job security.



*Left to Right :- Alex Baird (Aland Pty Ltd-Director of Development, AEG-Non-Exec Director), Mark Brown (Burbank-CEO), Alex Brinkmeyer (Aland Pty Ltd MD, AEG-Chairman)*

Mr Ben Webster, General Manager of Bunnings, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity for Bunnings to be involved as a major supplier to Villa Estate – Cowra. He acknowledged the importance of the project to the local Bunnings store and the positive impact that a development of this scale will have on local business activity and employment.

The formal **turning of the sod** was carried out by the attending dignitaries, symbolising the official commencement of construction. **Mr Leigh Browne**, Burbank’s site foreman and a local resident, was also invited to join the ceremony in recognition of the important role that local trades and site personnel will play in delivering the project.



***“Turning of the Sod”***

*Left to Right :Leigh Browne (Burbank-Site Supervisor), Ben Webster (Bunnings-GM), Hon Michael McCormack (Federal Member), Bill Smith (Cowra Shire Council-Mayor), Alex Brinkmeyer (AEG-Chairman), Mark Brown (Burbank-CEO)*

The Official Commencement Ceremony concluded, marking the beginning of the next phase of Villa Estate – Cowra. The occasion provided an opportunity to recognise the shared commitment of Aland Pty Ltd, AEG, Cowra Shire Council, Burbank Homes, Bunnings, local trades and suppliers in delivering a project that will provide lasting benefits for housing choice, employment and regional growth.



Final photographs from the event include the official dignitary group and a separate photograph of AEG Chairman, Mr Alex Brinkmeyer, with the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Federal Member for Riverina

