

# Aurora's allure false: still no services after five years

BY MEAGAN WEYMES

RESIDENTS of Aurora estate in Epping North say VicUrban is failing to deliver on services promised in the area.

The five-year-old community has 1500 residents but still has no shops, train service, schools or childcare centres.

The master plan for the estate called for all houses to have a minimum six-star energy rating, four schools, two town centres, five community centres, a childcare centre, two shopping precincts and a train line.

President of the Aurora Community Association Brad Costin said the services promised by VicUrban were a major drawcard for the estate.

"I think it was a bit of a selling point or a major reason why people moved into the area," Mr Costin said. "A lot of those things have been slow to materialise."

Mr Costin said the closest school was about 3 kilometres away in Epping and the closest milk bar was about 4 kilometres away, making the community dependent on cars.

Manager of the newly opened Creeds Farm Community Centre Rose Babic said she was

'At this stage Epping North isn't being serviced properly'

considering having childcare on-site because of the lack of services in the community.

"We've been looking at trying to get a system happening where we'll have a class and people can leave their kids with us, and we could get workers to come in specifically to take care of them, because at this stage Epping North isn't being serviced properly."

VicUrban said a convenience store was under construction and scheduled to open in March, and blamed a lack of interest from operators for delaying the childcare centre.

The Creeds Farm Primary School site has been purchased by the Roman Catholic Trust, but the organisation is not obliged to open the school before 2016.

"VicUrban hopes the increased population at Aurora will create more favourable market conditions for private community service providers to operate," VicUrban general manager for urban communities Rob Vines said.