

Hole for 222-space, three-level NDIA car park dug Going down before up

TESSA HAYWARD

THE new national headquarters of the National Disability Insurance Agency has hit its lowest point — with 45,000 tonnes of soil excavated to make way for three levels of underground car parking.

This will provide 222 car spaces below the multi-level building, which will include a food emporium with many operators as well as the NDIA headquarters.

The carpark will be Geelong's second biggest underground carpark, following the TAC's 321 underground parking bays.

Local company Techne Development is driving the \$120 million, nine-level development.

"As the headquarters for the NDIA, plenty of accessible parking was just one of a number of key considerations in our design," Techne Development managing director Scott Vickers-Willis said.

"And, after excavating for more than 16 weeks and removing more than 45,000 tonnes of soil, we can now start to build those carparks and our-



end-of-trip facilities," Mr Vickers-Willis said.

The excavation uncovered 5000 artefacts, including blue-stone walls. A lot of heritage work has also been done to

preserve the old Carlton Hotel facade.

Mr Vickers-Willis said the old facade had been expensive to keep and not as well built as initially thought but, due to its

history, it was retained.

Geelong mayor Bruce Harwood said: the building would be "another very welcome signature development marking our city's skyline."

Kane Constructions is the builder for the project and is looking to engage Geelong-based companies where possible.

Kane project manager Sam

Birdseye said they could have about 300 tradies on-site and would be using about 2000 in total.

The project is expected to be completed by late next year.



LOW POINT: Techne Development's Scott Vickers-Willis, Geelong Mayor Bruce Harwood and Kane project manager Sam Birdseye in the hole that will be underground carparking for the NDIA building on Malop St.

Pictures: PETER RISTEVSKI