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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Bracks against tower bid

Wednesday, 2 September 2009

Article in The Advertiser by Goya Bennett

“FORMER Victorian premier Steve Bracks appears confident that a proposed 13-storey development will not go ahead in Williamstown.

Evolve Development has submitted plans for a multimillion-dollar high-rise development at the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site in Nelson Place.

Plans show four apartment blocks between seven and 13 storeys high and 84 three-storey townhouses.

Evolve managing director Ashley Williams has been pushing for a priority development panel to be appointed by the Government to fast-track the planning process.

Mr Bracks, a Williamstown resident since 1990, said Planning Minister Justin Madden had made it clear to the developer that Hobsons Bay Council was responsible for

assessing the proposal.

Asked for his view on the 13-storey tower, Mr Bracks said: "I don't think it's going to happen. I think, clearly, with the decision of the minister [and] with the decision-making that will happen at council, you'll see a different, more appropriate development and I think that will be the right way to go....."

.....**Mr Bracks said legislation protected the viability of BAE Systems' military operations.** Objectors fear the future of Australia's biggest defence contractor, which employs 400 people at its Williamstown shipyard, could be threatened by encroaching residential development and the prying eyes of neighbours.

"They are under legislation already and have a planning ordinance which requires that purpose for that use; that's already the case and I assume that will be maintained," Mr Bracks said."

<http://www.themail.com.au/news/local/news/general/bracks-against-tower-bid/1611608.aspx>

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