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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Media Statement by Wade Noonan MP, Member for Williamstown

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Amendment C75 Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill
(Williamstown)

I welcome the Council's decision to not support the preparation and exhibition of Amendment C75 at this time for the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site in Williamstown.

There are clearly a range of concerns about this proposed development which have now been well-researched and documented by the Council, including the height of the development, neighbourhood character, heritage aspects, traffic management, and the potential impact on the viability of surrounding industries.

This decision by Council is not an outright rejection and the developers should understand that. In fact, the Council's own independent review has demonstrated support for residential development at this site. The issue really is about the appropriateness of the development and how it might fit with a site that is deemed to have very high heritage value.

The scale of this proposed development remains a key factor and has rightly captured the community's attention. The community does not want a Beacon Cove in Williamstown. This point is supported by the Council's own independent review of the site.

Removing the existing Design and Development Overlays 4 and 8 as part of the present application would most likely pave the way for the developers to build up to 46.5m.

Other factors, such as the potential impact of this development on the Port's operations and the local shipyard remain no closer to resolution. Convening a meeting between the various key industry stakeholders seems to be an appropriate response in the circumstances.

The Council has made it clear that they are ready to consider a revised proposal that responds to the concerns raised. This is the right approach.

I will continue to work with the Council, relevant stakeholders and the community to ensure that any development on the site is in line with the community's aspirations.

The developers have really no choice but to reassess their plans and submit a proposal that is more realistic for the site. The ball is in their court.

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