

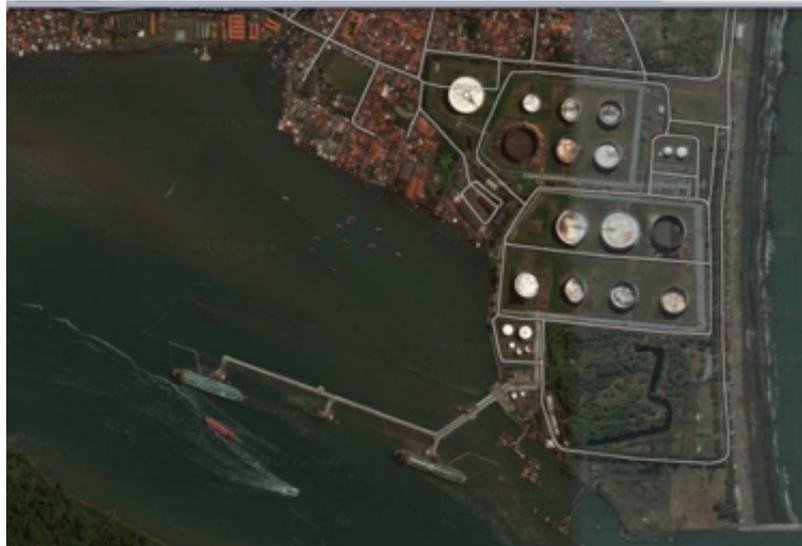
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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Indonesia Pertamina Oil Refinery Explosion Is Like Earthquake

Monday, 4 April 2011

All Voices

“As a result of explosion of two tanks at Pertamina UP IV Cilacap, Central Java, tonight, Markusno and his family were forced to become refugees. Understandably, his house in Jalan Kali Donan, only a distance of less than 500 meters south of the refinery complex that caught fire....”

<http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/8663647-indonesia-pertamina-oil-refinery-explosion-is-like-earthquake>

Explosion at Pertamina refinery heard 8 kilometers away

The Jakarta Post, Jakarta
Sat, 04/02/2011 3:20 PM

“The sound of an explosion at the Pertamina Refinery Unit IV in Cilacap, Central Java was heard up to 8 kilometers from the incident. Fire engulfed an oil refinery owned by state oil firm PT Pertamina on Saturday morning. A resident, whose house is located around 8 kilometers from the refinery, said she heard an explosion at around 4:30 a.m. “I heard a sound like thunder that startled me,” Martinie Susanty said.....”

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/04/02/explosion-pertamina-refinery-heard-8-kilometers-away.html>

Prior to the April 2011 explosion there was a major explosion in June 2009

Pertamina lubricant refinery explodes
The Jakarta Post (January 2010)

“.....Sunday’s explosion was not the first to have occurred at the Cilacap refinery. In June last year, a unit at LOC II that processed diesel fuel and kerosene exploded, prompting a stop in the production of fuel products at the refinery for 10 days, subsequently causing a drop by up to 30 percent of the refinery’s normal production volume. The largest explosion occurred 15 years ago when flames spewing from the exploded refinery could not be put out for about a week, causing a complete stoppage of production at the refinery. Pertamina’s Cilacap unit is one of the country’s seven largest fuel processing units. It has the capacity to produce 348,000 barrels of fuel per day, mostly in the form of gasoline, diesel fuel and kerosene, which is distributed across Java and Bali.”

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/01/25/pertamina-lubricant-refinery-explodes.html>

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



High-rise plan for racecourse

Tuesday, 5 April 2011

The Age

Jason Dowling April 04, 2011

“A \$1.4 BILLION project to build more than 2000 apartments and townhouses at the Moonee Valley racecourse - including four high-rise towers - will put the historical track at the forefront of Melbourne's battle to provide housing for its booming population. The proposed residential and commercial development, including four towers more than 20 storeys high, is the centrepiece of a master plan to be released by the Moonee Valley Racing Club within weeks.

The towers will be built in existing car parks, with all parking at the track that holds one of Australia's premier race meetings - the Cox Plate - to be moved to the centre of the course.

The Moonee Valley club has briefed Planning Minister Matthew Guy and Racing Minister Denis Napthine on its development

plans and is working with the Moonee Valley Council on the final touches of the master plan for the 40-hectare site that could house 6000 people.

Mr Guy said that while he was not responsible for approving the master plan, he was "supportive of inner-city urban renewal on sites such as this".

Melbourne's other racecourses - Flemington, with its own dedicated rail line, and Caulfield, next to a major train station - are also keen to unlock their abundant land for residential developments.

The push for racecourse housing will be boosted by figures revealed by The Age last week showing Melbourne is Australia's fastest-growing capital city - adding more than 1500 people a week. The figures showed that the four fastest-growing municipalities in the country were on Melbourne's fringe.....”

<http://m.theage.com.au/domain/real-estate-news/highrise-plan-for-racecourse-20110403-1ctap.html>

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Buyer beware: off-the-plan warning as projects stall

Saturday, 9 April 2011

The Age

Jason Dowling and Marika Dobbin

April 9, 2011

“Off-the-plan housing contracts in Victoria will soon come with a “warning notice” on the front page as concerns escalate about complicated contracts favouring developers and a large number of housing projects that may never be delivered.

A senior Melbourne developer has warned that not all projects currently being sold off-the-plan in Melbourne would be built, while new research from property agency Oliver Hume shows construction is yet to begin on a third of high-rise apartment projects that have been marketed in Melbourne for more than six months.

One disillusioned first home buyer told The Saturday Age he

recently had his bond refunded after waiting 17 months for work to begin on his \$285,000 one-bedroom apartment in inner Melbourne.

The 35-year-old, who did not want to be identified, said the developer last month cancelled his contract via a "sunset clause" the home buyer was unaware of. "I have now come 17 months down the track and am starting afresh again but property prices in that area have gone up to \$340,000 to \$350,000 for a one-bedroom - so it is out of my reach."....."

<http://theage.domain.com.au/real-estate-news/buyer-beware-offtheplan-warning-as-projects-stall-20110409-1d89r.html>

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



New residential developments near major hazard facilities under review

Sunday, 17 April 2011

Media Release Wade Noonan MLA Williamstown
12th April 2011

Victorian Planning Minister, Matthew Guy has recently asked his Department to raise issues relating to major hazard facilities and appropriate distances between new residential developments with the EPA, says Member for Williamstown, Wade Noonan MP.

Earlier this year Mr Noonan used the Parliament to call on the Minister to conduct an urgent review of the State's planning policies and guidelines as they relate to major hazard facilities

"This issue is particularly important to my local community as five of the State's 41 registered major hazard facilities are

located in the Williamstown electorate,” Mr Noonan said.

In raising the matter, Mr Noonan stated that there are some serious questions being asked about the appropriateness of building new residential developments near major hazard facilities.

“Unfortunately planning decisions of the past have not always respected the need to preserve appropriate buffers between these major hazard facilities and residential areas,” Mr Noonan said.

It has now been revealed that these issues are currently under investigation, with the Planning Minister recently stating the following in a letter to Mr Noonan (dated 5th April 2011):

“I am currently considering the recommendations of the Ports and Environs Advisory Committee which has made several recommendations relating to ‘sensitive uses’ at the interface of the port and major hazard facilities associated with port operations.”

“One of the key issues regarding the Woollen Mills site in Williamstown is its proximity to the major hazard facility at Point Gellibrand and whether it is appropriate to build a large scale residential development within 300 metres,” Mr Noonan said.

Mr Noonan says the Minister should immediately make public the recommendations from the Ports and Environs Committee as they relate to the Woollen Mills site.

“The Minister must immediately make public the content of those recommendations relating to sensitive uses,” Mr Noonan said.

In a further admission that the Planning Minister accepts the need to investigate this matter further, he stated in the same letter:

“I have asked my Department to raise issues relating to major hazard facilities and appropriate distances between new residential developments with the EPA which is responsible for policies and guidelines that relate to appropriate buffer distances.”

“The Minister must make clear what issues he has asked his Department to raise with the EPA and whether they impact on

current planning applications," Mr Noonan said.

"I think the Minister wants to avoid scrutiny on this issue by being deliberately vague. In any case, I'm not sure how he could make a determination about the planning controls at the Woollen Mills site whilst this remains up in the air," Mr Noonan said.

Current planning guidelines recommend a minimum 300 metre buffer distance between a site used for storage of petroleum products (with fixed roof tanks) and residential developments.

"These matters may take some time to resolve and any decision might still be contestable," Mr Noonan said.

Further Background

Last year, VCAT rejected an appeal by a developer to construct 66 new dwellings in Stephen Street, Yarraville on the basis of its proximity to Mobil's Yarraville Terminal. The development site was identified as being approximately 180 metres to the east of the major hazard facility.

Conversely, the former planning minister approved a residential re-zoning on the old Port Phillip Woollen Mills site in Williamstown, with a large part of the subject site falling within a 300 metre buffer distance of Mobil's Point Gellibrand facility.

There is also an application before the Hobsons Bay City Council to re-zone land at a disused flour mill site in Newport, which is being held up due to its proximity to Shells' major hazard facility, and an objection from Shell and WorkSafe.

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Soaked train network to be clear for peak hour

Sunday, 17 April 2011

The Age

Mex Cooper

April 12, 2011 - 3:17PM

“Heavy overnight rain caused major disruptions on Melbourne's rail network during the morning commute with one line partially closed and at least two others suffering delays....

...The downpour affected services on at least six lines throughout the morning as soaked commuters were left waiting on platforms and water was pumped from flooded station underpasses.....”

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/weather/soaked-train-network-to-be-clear-for-peak-hour-20110412-1dbe8.html>

As rail services for Williamstown and Newport are integrated with the services to eastern suburbs lines, the vulnerability of Public Transport services will become more exposed. Williamstown only has trains as public transport to the CBD - no buses or trains. The strains of increased population, the lack of public transport with just 3 train services an hour in the rush hour, and the two roads in and out of Williamstown (one of which has been closed from 9.30am to 3pm weekdays for over a year with the strengthening of the Westgate Bridge) - are making travel from Williamstown to the CBD a nightmare.....

Add a few storms and Williamstown has a transport problem.

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Plans for billion-dollar suburb of 4000 homes at Werribee

Sunday, 17 April 2011

The Age

Simon Johanson April 14, 2011

“DEVELOPERS will carve out a 4000-home suburb on Melbourne's western fringe amid growing concern about infrastructure and traffic congestion in the city's fastest-growing areas.

Delfin Lend Lease will build a billion-dollar urban community for up to 12,000 people on 438 hectares about three kilometres west of Werribee after a deal with a local land owner....

... Wyndham mayor John Menegazzo said the suburb's swift growth was causing significant road congestion, exacerbated by inadequate public transport. "Naturally [residents] are frustrated with the amount of growth that's occurred and the congestion. People who may have taken 45 minutes to go to work will now

take an hour," he said.

Mr Menegazzo said the two stations on the proposed regional rail line, running just west of the development, might alleviate transport problems

But both stations, Tarneit to the north and Wyndham Vale to the south, are at least three kilometres from the new estate.

Former Werribee resident Matthew Hovey said he recently moved closer to the city because of rail system cancellations and delays when commuting by car.

"At times it will take you up to two hours to get into the city and that's leaving before seven in the morning," Mr Hovey said. He believes road infrastructure had not kept pace with growth....."

<http://m.theage.com.au/domain/real-estate-news/plans-for-billion-dollar-suburb-of-4000-homes-at-werribee-20110413-1de7i.html>

These developments are having a huge impact on both public transport to the CBD and traffic on the Westgate Bridge and impacting badly on accessibility for Williamstown and Newport residents.

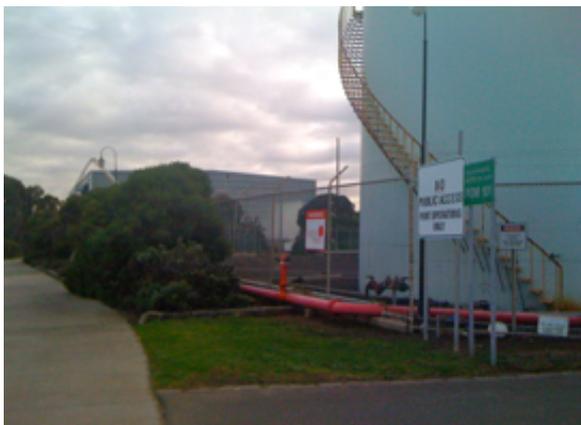
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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Shell plant closure axes 500 jobs

Sunday, 17 April 2011

Weekly Times

April 13, 2011

“AUSTRALIA will be forced to import almost a third of its petrol and diesel.

It comes after Shell flagged it would shut its Clyde refinery in Sydney, putting up to 500 jobs at risk, The Australian reports. The move will cut the number of local refineries from nine eight years ago to seven, with Shell saying the ageing Clyde refinery that supplies 40 per cent of NSW's petrol could not compete with giant, new Asian refineries.

Shell said it was awaiting feedback from Clyde's 310 workers before it formally gave the go-ahead to turn the 90-year-old refinery into an import terminal by mid 2013.

The move is expected to be confirmed within weeks. Including

contractors, up to 500 jobs are at risk at Clyde, unions said...

ExxonMobil, which is dismantling the Port Stanvac refinery in Adelaide it mothballed in 2003, refused to comment on its plans. Exxon's remaining Altona plant in Melbourne - the nation's smallest - is seen as a candidate for sale or closure.

Deutsche Bank analyst John Hirjee said the increased reliance on imports would raise the risks of a petrol supply squeeze here if overseas refineries went down..."

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2011/04/13/319495_business-news.html

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9:15 PM	Stopping All Stations To Newport	>
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Minister Terry Mulder to front train timetable critics

Sunday, 17 April 2011

Hobsons Bay Weekly
13 Apr, 2011 12:00 AM

“VICTORIAN Transport Minister Terry Mulder is due to meet Altona commuters angry about proposed train timetable changes.

After previously turning down the opportunity to attend two community meetings hosted by Greens MLC Colleen Hartland, Mr Mulder was scheduled to meet four disgruntled commuters this morning. One of them, Sandra Wilson, said she didn't know what to expect heading into the meeting.

Under the proposed changes, the travel time of many commuters would increase by up to 20 minutes, with no direct trains running through the Altona loop in off-peak periods....”

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/minister-terry-mulder-to-front-train-timetable-critics/2132116.aspx>

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Hobsons Bay gets set for boom

Sunday, 17 April 2011

Hobsons Bay Leader

12 APR 11 @ 07:00AM BY LAURA KEYS

“HOBSONS Bay has been spared a “deluge” of high-density housing in recent years, but should prepare for an “onslaught” of new residents in coming years.

That’s according to Monash University’s Centre for Population and Urban Research’s Dr Bob Birrell, who says the municipality should brace for a second phase of development.

New figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that the population of Hobsons Bay increased 0.9 per cent to 88,053 between 2005 and 2010.

“Hobsons Bay hasn’t yet been hit by the unit deluge that has affected some other middle suburban locations,” Dr Birrell said. But he warned a second wave of development would come as

more people discovered the area. "There's plenty of scope for it," he said. "The development process is over and we're waiting for the second phase of suburbanisation."

Hobsons Bay Council's acting director for planning and environment Natalie Walker agreed.

"Over the next decade potential redevelopment of former industrial sites, plus a continuation of multi-unit developments is expected to yield higher growth in the Hobsons Bay population," Ms Walker said.

Despite the slow growth, Altona still managed to post one of the highest levels of house price growth in Melbourne, according to Land Victoria's latest data....."

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/hobsons-bay-gets-set-for-boom/>

Comment by Save Williamstown - Our industry is important - in comparing growth in dormitory suburbs with Hobsons Bay the research fails to acknowledge that the population needs jobs as well housing....

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



MP presses state to keep West Gate punt promise

Sunday, 17 April 2011

Hobsons Bay Leader

13 APR 11 @ 07:00AM BY LAURA KEYS

“BIKE commuters from Melbourne’s west will have a safer, greener route into the city if the State Government delivers on a \$1.4 million Coalition election promise to upgrade the West Gate punt’s frequency.

In response to pressure by Western Metropolitan state Greens MP Colleen Hartland, Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder has signalled his intention to fund the upgrade of the pedestrian and bike ferry.

He said next month’s State Budget would fund increasing the frequency of the punt to every half hour, seven days a week, from weekends only.

The punt, which travels from Sportwood to Port Melbourne,

takes 13km off the journey from the western suburbs to the Port.....”

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/mp-presses-state-to-keep-west-gate-punt-promise/>

Comment by Save Williamstown - A safer ALTERNATIVE commuter route at last.

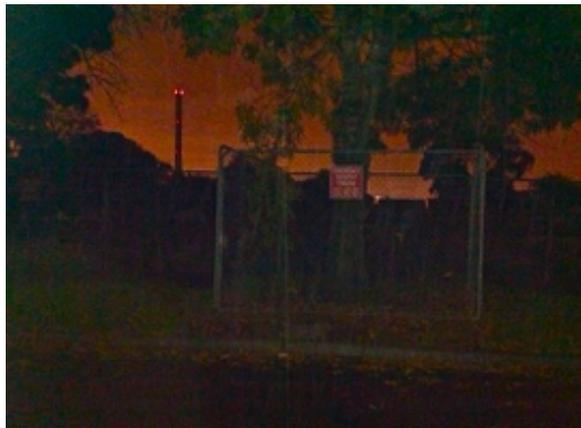
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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



'No' to bid for Newport units

Wednesday, 20 April 2011

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
20 Apr, 2011 12:00 AM

“PLANS for a three-storey apartment block at the former Newport timber yard site have been scuttled by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

VCAT member Dalia Cook last week upheld Hobsons Bay Council's refusal to grant Peter Cahill a planning permit for Paine Street, Newport.

The proposal was for a black-painted, cement-sheet apartment block, comprising 34 two-bedroom apartments, six one-bedroom apartments and parking for 47 vehicles, including 20 spaces in vehicle stackers.

Newport residents opposed to the development formed lobby

group Protect Newport and lodged more than 80 objections against the timber yard proposal.....”

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-to-bid-for-newport-units/2139138.aspx#>

READ more about this battle...
<http://www.protectnewport.com/>

VCAT Decision
<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2011/589.html>

Comment by Save Williamstown -
WELL DONE Protect Newport.
Great Victory

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Denser is better, say planners

Friday, 29 April 2011

The Age

Jason Dowling April 29, 2011

“The number of houses on each hectare of Melbourne's newest suburbs must double if shops and services within walking distance are to be viable, according to new research.

If housing density in growth areas does not increase, the city was "building to fail", a leading planning academic has warned. Building guidelines call for 15 homes a hectare in Melbourne's growth areas, but research by urban designers SJB Urban shows it is not enough to make even a small local shopping centre or corner shop within walking distance viable.

The report *Shall we Dense?* calls for new suburbs to have an average of 25 to 30 dwellings a hectare by providing a better mix of housing, including townhouses and apartments.

Report co-author and urban designer Simon McPherson said 15 houses a hectare would mean the loss of more than local shops.....

.....The research, to be delivered to the World Sustainable Building Conference in Helsinki in October, argues people need services close by to encourage walking and patronage.

"Beyond five to 10 minutes' walk, the behavioural tendency is to opt for car use, and then to potentially bypass local centres to travel further to larger centres," it found....."

<http://m.theage.com.au/domain/denser-is-better-say-planners-20110428-1dyvw.html>

Save Williamstown comment:

The Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site proposal is 15 minutes walk to the shopping centre so I think we can infer that most residents would opt for car use should the proposal go ahead.

Also if 30 dwellings per hectare is dense - what is 250??

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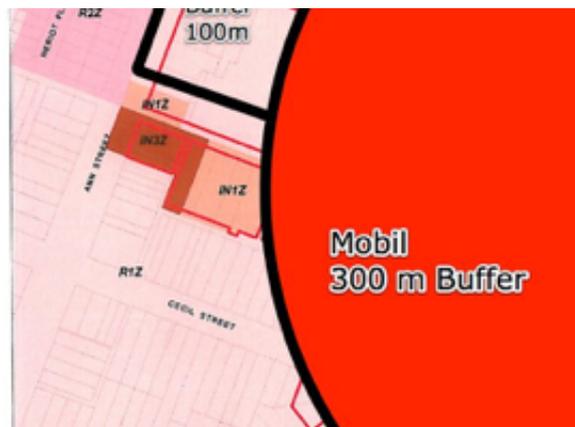
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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Hazards hold up Hobsons Bay building plans

Friday, 29 April 2011

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
27 Apr, 2011

“TWO of the largest residential plans for Hobsons Bay could be affected by a review of new development near major hazard facilities.

Four residential towers ranging from three to 13-storeys are proposed for the Port Phillip Woollen Mills site in Williamstown, while up to five storeys of residential and mixed-use development is proposed for the former Newport Flour Mill site. Earlier this year, Williamstown MP Wade Noonan called on Planning Minister Matthew Guy to urgently review Victoria's planning policies and guidelines in relation to major hazard facilities.

"This issue is particularly important to my local community as five of the state's 41 registered major hazard facilities are located in the Williamstown electorate," Mr Noonan said. In a response to Mr Noonan, Mr Guy stated: "I have asked my department to raise issues relating to major hazard facilities and appropriate distances between new residential developments with the EPA, which is responsible for policies and guidelines that relate to appropriate buffer distances."...

...Former planning minister Justin Madden approved the residential rezoning of Port Phillip Woollen Mill despite much of the site falling within a 300-metre buffer distance of Mobil's Point Gellibrand facility.

The rezoning of Newport Flour Mill is being held up because of its proximity to Shell's major hazard facility, and objections lodged by Shell and WorkSafe....."

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/hazards-hold-up-hobsons-bay-building-plans/2144785.aspx>

Save Williamstown's comment by Godfrey Moase - the issue of public safety should be resolved before any decision was made on developing the woollen mill site.

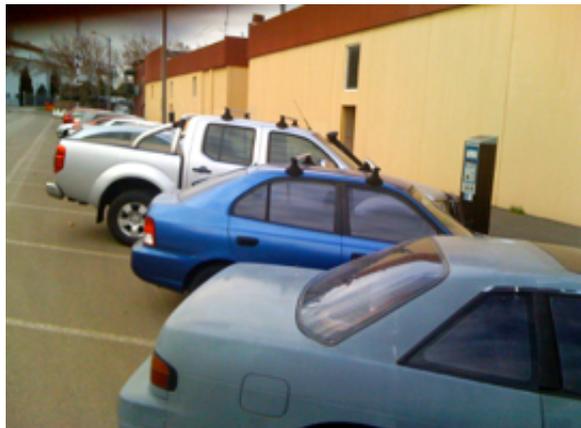
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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Hobsons Bay development: Where to park the car?

Friday, 29 April 2011

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
27 Apr, 2011

"THE rise in multi-storey apartment blocks is "swallowing up" parking spaces across Hobsons Bay, concerned residents say. Altona woman Angela Harrison said the council had approved 200 new apartment dwellings in a short stretch between Altona railway station and the civic hall.

"In the past 12 months, council has approved the construction of 200 new dwellings for Pier Street [North], between Civic Parade and the railway line," Ms Harrison said....."

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/>

[hobsons-bay-development-where-to-park-the-car/2144786.aspx#](#)

Save Williamstown's comment: Williamstown faces even more chronic parking shortages and yet we want to have a viable tourist industry and nothing puts tourists off more than not being able to access tourist attractions.

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