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Shell puts Geelong refinery on market

Thursday, 4 April 2013

The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/business/shell-puts-geelong-refinery-on-market-20130404-2h89p.html>

“Petroleum giant Shell has announced that its Geelong refinery is for sale. Shell's downstream vice president Andrew Smith said if a buyer cannot be found, the refinery could be converted into a fuel import terminal. Speaking shortly after 11.30am on Thursday, Mr Smith said the decision to divest or close the asset, which has been operating for almost 60 years, was not easy.

Mr Smith said he wanted the sale process to completed by 2014.

Advertisement

"Shell is committed to a timely sale process ... it is difficult to predict the outcome and timing," he said.

"If a sale on agreeable terms cannot be reached there are options available, this could include converting the refinery into an import terminal."...."

SW COMMENT:

If this happens to Mobil's Altona Refinery too, we will be faced with Petrol importation at Pt Gellibrand. The oil industry is constantly aware of the economics of refining locally vis a vis importing.

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Trades Hall Council endorses the Save Williamstown Campaign

Friday, 12 April 2013

VICTORIAN TRADES HALL COUNCIL
Executive Council Minutes of 22 March 2013

Save Williamstown campaign endorsement

The Save Williamstown campaign which has nearly 1500 local residents has asked for our endorsement.

It's a campaign specifically for the sustainable and appropriate development of the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site at the very tip of point Gellibrand in Williamstown. They believe the campaign raises some pertinent issues around planning rules for Ports and Environs zones, major hazard facilities and protecting strategic manufacturing sites in Victoria.

Their major concern is that ultra-high density development (literally) over the road from the current BAE shipyards will further endanger the long-term viability of this strategic site.

This is the type of local campaign that the VTHC could you to also develop our activists.

Motion: That the VTHC endorses the Save Williamstown campaign.

SW COMMENT:

If the developers, council and the bosses won't protect shipyard jobs in Williamstown - the workers will.

2000 residents in 2.8 hectares is ULTRA high density - 5 to 7 times more dense than Hong Kong and New York's Manhattan. Many living within the danger zone of explosion at the Major Hazard Facility.

PT GELLIBRAND NEEDS A RISK ASSESSMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO THAT ASAP. IT'S 20 YEARS SINCE THE LAST RISK ASSESSMENT AND THE KENNETT GOVERNMENT WAS SO SCARED OF WHAT IS SAID THAT THEY SUPPRESSED IT!!

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Williamstown hotel fenced off as planning dispute puts safety at risk

Tuesday, 16 April 2013

Hobsons Bay Weekly

By SIMON JOHANSON and JANE LEE

The Age April 16, 2013, 11:13 a.m.

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/story/1435081/williamstown-hotel-fenced-off-as-planning-dispute-puts-public-safety-at-risk/>

“A long-running planning dispute over derelict buildings on Williamstown's old woollen mills site is endangering public safety, developers say.

A company half-owned by business identity Ron Walker on Monday

fenced off footpaths and land around the dilapidated Oriental Hotel, amid fears the 142-year-old building (**WRONG BUILDING IS 1854**) may collapse, echoing the recent Swanston Street wall tragedy. But Williamstown residents vehemently opposed to development plans for the woollen mills have questioned the timing of the move. An application by the developers, Evolve, to have the building demolished was rejected by Hobsons Bay council in February. Evolve has appealed the matter to VCAT.

"I'm concerned that the timing between the two incidents is suspect," said Godfrey Moase, a spokesman for residents' group Save Williamstown. "We are concerned that safety is being used as a stalking horse for profit."

"We do care about our own safety but this is one small parcel of land in terms of a very dense proposed development covering quite an extensive area down that end of Williamstown."

Mr Moase said that the Oriental Hotel was the oldest three-storey pub in Victoria, and was particularly rare because it was made out of brick, rather than bluestone.

Evolve director Ashley Williams said the company had responded to directions from Victoria's building surveyor to check the integrity of structures on the site.

It immediately moved to cordon off the Oriental on the corner of Ann Street and Nelson Place after an engineer's report found the building posed a public hazard...."

SW COMMENT:

A bit of honesty about how old this hotel is would help.. It was built in 1854 and is the oldest hotel in Williamstown and possibly the oldest brick 3 storey hotel in the whole state of Victoria.

Added to the fact it is very wrong for the developer to be exposing future residents to the dangers of living too close to a Major Hazard Facility. The Port Phillip Woollen Mill Advisory Committee said Mixed Use was more appropriate for the site and to pursue residential development encroaching on dangerous port facilities is a very valid reason to tell the developer to go away and think again. Councillors are obliged to think of their community.

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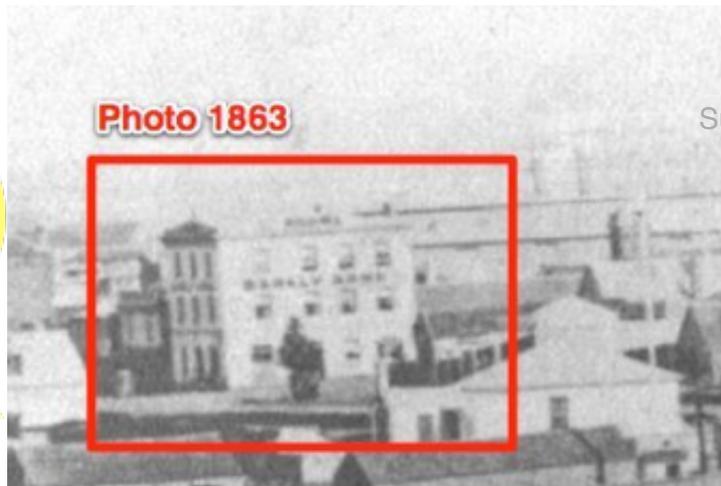
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“Safety is a Furphy” Evolve bent on destroying our heritage Oriental Hotel Williamstown

Tuesday, 16 April 2013

<http://m.theage.com.au/victoria/planning-dispute-to-blame-for-hotel-hazard-developer-20130415-2hw63.html>

The Age

Planning dispute to blame for hotel hazard: developer
 by Simon Johanson Jane Lee - 16/04/13, 3:00 AM

A long-running planning dispute over derelict buildings on Williamstown's old woollen mills site is endangering public safety, developers say. A company half-owned by business identity Ron Walker on Monday fenced off footpaths and land around the dilapidated Oriental Hotel, amid fears the **(WRONG ACTUALLY 169 Yrs old)** 142-year-old building may collapse, echoing the recent Swanston Street wall tragedy.

But Williamstown residents vehemently opposed to development plans for the woollen mills have questioned the timing of the move. An application by the developers, Evolve, to have the building demolished was rejected by Hobsons Bay council in February. Evolve has appealed the matter to

"I'm concerned that the timing between the two incidents is suspect," said Godfrey Moase, a spokesman for residents' group Save Williamstown. "We are concerned that safety is being used as a stalking horse for profit."

"We do care about our own safety but this is one small parcel of land in terms of a very dense proposed development covering quite an extensive area down that end of Williamstown."

Mr Moase said that the Oriental Hotel was the oldest three-storey pub in Victoria, and was particularly rare because it was made out of brick, rather than bluestone. Evolve director Ashley Williams said the company had responded to directions from Victoria's building surveyor to check the integrity of structures on the site.

It immediately moved to cordon off the Oriental on the corner of Ann Street and Nelson Place after an engineer's report found the building posed a public hazard. "We would be negligent if we didn't act to ensure the public weren't at any risk at all," Mr Williams said.

"We've never shied away from the fact this building is in poor condition," Mr Williams said.

The planning dispute with the local council and residents has been running for eight years and is set to be heard at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in June.

The Save Williamstown group's 1500 members have campaigned against the high-rise development for years, arguing that developers should pay for the structural repairs to the pub.

"This comes down to a matter of costs more than anything else," Mr Moase said. "They've had eight years to do something constructive with this building," he said. "If they seriously believe it would cost too much to save this ... they should just put the building up for sale for the cost of the land."

In February, Hobsons Bay Council rejected an application to demolish the hotel.

About 220 people objected to the demolition and development. Many said the decisions should be adjourned until a risk assessment was done, given that the development site fell within a 300-metre safety buffer from Mobil's tank farm supplying half Victoria's fuel.....

With Goya Dmytryshchak

SW COMMENT:

WRONG. This hotel is 1854 - there are photos of the same building in 1863 - there was no fire in 1871.

This is probably the oldest 3 storey brick hotel in Victoria.

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Deafening noise - Small Child cries "I can't hear any more" - this is the reality of Major Explosions

Friday, 19 April 2013

"Already, an unknown girl has become the face of the West Fertilizer Plant disaster, after a video of her crying out "Dad, dad, I can't hear anything, please get me out of here," went viral across the world."

<http://youtu.be/ROrpKx3aljA>

See
Herald Sun
April 18, 2013

“Waco Texas explosion: Unknown girl in the West Fertilizer Plant disaster cries: 'Dad, dad...I can't hear anything'

SHE'S the brave, unknown girl, who has become the face of the West Fertilizer Plant disaster, after her desperate plea for help shocked the world.

"Dad, dad ... I can't hear anything ... please get me out of here oh my god, please get me out of here .."

This plea of a panicked daughter instantly became the voice of a tragedy that that has rocked the small Texas town of West - and the world.

America has been rocked by twin tragedies this week and the plea of a daughter - sitting alongside her dad as he filmed a fire at a fertiliser plant moments before it exploded - showed the gut-wrenching enormity of a blast that has left 130 injured and at least 70 dead.

Her voice is captured on a viral video posted to YouTube, where viewers see the explosion being filmed by her father with their car's side mirror in their sight.

Then the explosion occurs again, and the viewer sees a shaky image as the young girl tells her father to get her out of there, and that she has lost her hearing.

Scientific experts have weighed in, saying they were unsure of whether her loss of hearing may be permanent or temporary.....”

SW COMMENT:

Evolve continue to ignore the safety of residents in their proposed dwellings at the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site.

And the State Government and Minister of Planning made some strange irrational changes which impact badly on safety around an MHF.

First there was the watering down of the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C86 which after being shown to Hobsons Bay Councillors a different PSA C86 document was Gazetted by DPCD officers. The original PSA stated the whole development site required an Emergency Evacuation Plan and substituted PSA reduced the area requiring an EEP to about 10% of the site. Who were the beneficiaries of this slight of hand.

Having obtained changes which meant only 10% of the site required the Emergency Evacuation Plan - it was not until the recent application

PA1226025 for 178 dwellings in the Worksafe Advisory Area that a report was commissioned by Evolve and the details of what residents must do emerged. Dynamiq talks about appointing a Chief Warden, Area Wardens etc and requiring formal 6 months training. This is a business response to safety NOT one for residents. Visitors understanding plans, residents being able to understand evacuation plans - what if they are the like the little girl who panics in the instant she loses her hearing. Look at the YouTube movie and see the distance that the fertilizer plant is away - is that comparable with the tanks and fuel importation ships at Point Gellibrand.

Lets face it Mr Williams and Mr Walker

“Residents (and their children) are not an entity capable of organising in an emergency”

How many children will be living in these 12 x 4 bedroom townhouses proposed by Evolve and Urbis?

How many children or incapacitated persons will be in the 40 metre tower block just metres away from the townhouses?

The little girl's cry that she can't hear becomes a poignant indicator of what might happen to children in the Pt Gellibrand Peninsula arriving home alone when Mum and Dad are still at work AND one innocent day there is an explosion at the MHF.

LETS STOP THE NONSENSE and STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH DENSITY DWELLINGS next to a major hazard.

Previous risk assessments said the land is only suited to car parking and open space.

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3 hurt as fuel barges explode, catch fire on Mobile River in Alabama

Saturday, 27 April 2013

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/04/25/fuel-barges-explode-catch-fire-on-mobile-river-in-alabama/>

Fox News
27th April

“MOBILE, Ala. – Firefighters on Thursday extinguished a huge blaze that erupted hours earlier when two fuel barges exploded in Mobile, Ala., leaving three people with critical burns and forcing the evacuation of crew from a nearby cruise ship.

The cause of the fire, which started Wednesday night, was likely started from a spark during its cleaning, the U.S. Coast Guard said.....

..."It literally sounded like bombs going off around. The sky just lit up in orange and red," he said, "We could smell something in the air, we didn't know if it was gas or smoke." Waugh said he could feel the heat from the explosion and when he came back inside, his partner noticed he had what appeared to be black soot on his face.....

.....As daybreak approached, the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department's fireboat Phoenix was moving toward the barges, checking to make sure their mooring lines were secured, the fire department said in a statement. The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear, Huffman and Vega said. "Once (the fire) is out and safe, a full investigation will take place," Huffman wrote.

Mobile Fire Chief Steve Dean told AL.com he was confident the fire wouldn't spread to nearby industrial properties, including the shipyard where the Carnival cruise ship is docked....."

SW COMMENT:

Another explosion on a ship but the Victorian Government which has no water based fire fighting doesn't believe there is a risk of explosion from the shipping tankers at Pt Gellibrand.

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