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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



“PR in the fight for Williamstown village” Community responses

Monday, 2 August 2010

Comments on the article in
The Hobsons Bay Leader
by James Twining 27 JUL 10 @ 06:06AM

....

Rosco
writes:

Posted on
2 Aug 10 at 11:02am

Take a look around Williamstown we want our heritage to remain. it has been a great place to grow up and raise children, there are not many places left that are so heritage proud so leave us alone please

Mike Nicholls
writes:

Posted on

1 Aug 10 at 05:36pm

Most developers by nature seek to return maxim profits on their projects, this can only be achieved by overdevelopment , as can be seen in the case of the Port Phillip Woollen Mill site. They are not interested in sustainable development or the impact on our amenities only the bottom line monetary return to them and their investors. Thankfully we have dedicated residents that make up such groups as Save Williamstown, to represent the community and bringing into balance the of development in Williamstown.

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/comments/pr-in-the-fight-for-williamstown-village/>

Letters re PR.pdf

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Towering rejection in Williamstown

Tuesday, 3 August 2010

The Hobsons Bay Leader
by James Twining

“A SURVEY shows just 2 per cent of Williamstown residents are happy with the tower height proposed for a new apartment village in their suburb.

Save Williamstown, a residents group campaigning for sustainable development of the former Port Phillip Woollen Mills site on Nelson Place, commissioned the survey, which involved 40 volunteers doorknocking more than 500 houses.

The group has been fighting developer Nelson Place Village’s preferred plans for the site, which would include 412 dwellings with four apartment towers up to 46.5m.

Save Williamstown fears the new village would increase Williamstown’s population by up to 10 per cent, adding to

traffic congestion and threatening the suburb's unique heritage character.

Survey respondents were given an option of answering yes, no or don't know to 13 questions.

An overwhelming 98 per cent were not happy with the proposed 46.5m height.

A total of 162 people, or 44 per cent, offered extra comments beyond the questions.....”

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/towering-rejection-in-williamstown/>

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Fear of coastal swamping leads to unprecedented ruling on property

Thursday, 5 August 2010

Stephen McMahon From:
Herald Sun August 05, 2010

“FEARS Victoria's coastline will be swamped by rising sea levels have led to an unprecedented ruling that ended a family's dream beachside development.

The ruling, blocking plans for eight townhouses in Lakes Entrance, could undermine coastal development worth millions.

The VCAT decision is the first time a small-scale development has been blocked.

It means all new developments or subdivisions on land less than 80cm above sea level are threatened.

Areas designated as potential hot spots for flooding are Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Portland, Lakes Entrance, the Gippsland Lakes, Patterson Lakes and Werribee.

A federal government report last year warned that up to 44,600 homes along Victoria's coast could be destroyed or

damaged by rising sea levels over the next century.....”

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/fear-of-coastal-swamping-leads-to-unprecedented-ruling-on-property-dream/story-e6frf7kx-1225901323695>

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Critics slam Williamstown tower plan

Thursday, 5 August 2010

BY GOYA BENNETT

04 Aug, 2010 12:00 AM

“ONLY 2 per cent of residents support the Williamstown towers proposal, results from a door-to-door survey conducted by the Save Williamstown lobby group has revealed.

The survey sought residents' views on the Nelson Place Village proposal for the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site, which includes four residential towers, ranging from seven to 16 storeys.

Of those surveyed, 98per cent (339 respondents) said they did not support the developer's proposal for a 46.5-metre tower including 412 dwellings.

Of those surveyed, 97per cent believed Planning Minister Justin Madden should be held to his comments made in a press release that existing height and heritage controls would remain.

Ninety per cent thought the public transport and road network would not be able to cope with extra peak-hour users, and 95per cent said the development would negatively impact on traffic and parking availability. Save Williamstown spokesman Godfrey Moase said the survey results should send a clear message to the developer.

"We can say confidently that less than 4per cent of the whole population of the Williamstown-Newport peninsula, from North Road to the Riffle Range, support what the developer is trying to do in Williamstown....."

<http://www.themail.com.au/news/local/news/general/critics-slam-williamstown-tower-plan/1903858.aspx#>

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Climate change litigation to flood planning and development in coastal areas

Friday, 6 August 2010

From Freehills Website 12 February 2010

“Key points

- ◆ Developers are now on notice that a failure to consider climate change risks on (or arising from) their proposed coastal developments could result in rejected proposals or could leave approvals open to future challenge.
- ◆ Owners of businesses and properties with operations and facilities in coastal areas will increasingly need to consider adaptation strategies to ensure the preservation of their infrastructure and assets and balance restoration costs against new design or relocation costs.
- ◆ Local councils are likely to adopt a more conservative approach in approving development as they consider the risks of future negligence claims if landowners suffer loss or property damage.

This article examines recent developments in case law and policy in response to climate change and potential sea level

rise, and discusses the implications for developers, owners and local councils in coastal areas.....”

<http://www.freehills.com.au/5789.aspx>

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN

Your Submissions - checklist

- Your address, contact details, phone number
- Address to The Chair, Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Advisory Committee
- Underline or **Highlight** issues/topics that you think important and explain how they impact on you, your family, your workplace or your community
- Say you are not anti-development but want appropriate sustainable development fitting Williamstown Heritage
- Say whether you think the Developer's Option 5 should be allowed in the planning scheme
- If you have other ideas, suggest what you think is acceptable
- Important to send copies of your submission to SW as SW will be heard



Workshop on Submission Writing

Wednesday, 11 August 2010

BY Save Williamstown 9th August 2010

On Monday evening at Breizoz Creperie in the Chapel at the rear of the restaurant we held a workshop on writing "effective" submissions.

Our Workshop on Submission Writing was very well attended with a large number of people who do not have internet access able to get some advice on the formalities of submission writing. We had a number of mentors available to help attendees know what was required and printed out documents for those who needed them.

Dr Ken Marriott, a recreation and community planning consultant, outlined a framework for presenting submissions which can be downloaded
[How to write submissions.pdf](#)

Links to ALL the documents community members need regarding writing a submission to the Minister's Advisory Committee can be viewed on our webpage C75 Submissions.

SUBMISSIONS INFORMATION

The closing date for submissions is 27th August. Following that the committee will have a directions hearing in September and will hold hearings in mid October.

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



State's planning 'seizures' attacked

Wednesday, 11 August 2010

SW comment - so the Minister is now justifying calling in development projects for retaining jobs in the Global Financial Crisis BUT Mr Madden the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site is right next door to Shipyards of National Significance with huge naval contracts and 1,200 new jobs secured this year..... At a stroke of your ministerial pen in March, you decide to rezone the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site "Residential 1" and not have an industrial buffer which would protect jobs and industry from residents expecting "quality of life" in their new apartments/town houses. The developer Evolve immediately made a windfall profit of about \$40 million. It isn't too late for the minister to change his mind and every concerned resident and stakeholder is encouraged to make submissions to the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Advisory Committee by 27th August 2010.

see Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site C75 Submission

The Age
By Jason Dowling
August 11, 2010 - 3:00AM

“COMMUNITY and local government groups have attacked a big jump in the number of planning matters the state government has seized control of.

Planning Minister Justin Madden intervened in 44 per cent more planning matters in the 12 months to April this year compared with the previous year.

In a statement to Victoria's Parliament, Mr Madden has outlined 233 planning interventions over the 12 months - up from 161.

In justifying the planning takeovers, the government did not argue that the interventions were about better planning outcomes.

Instead, the government argued that the interventions helped "secure jobs and investment during the global financial crisis".

In a statement, Mr Madden said "sustained investment in Victoria during the international economic downturn had been vital in ensuring Victoria survived the economic crisis". He said it was "absolutely right to help secure jobs and investment during the global financial crisis".

The minister made 220 planning scheme changes - many to aid development in Melbourne "activity centres".

Another 13 planning matters before Victoria's planning tribunal were taken over by Mr Madden to "fast track" a decision.

One particularly powerful planning scheme amendment VC56 - introduced exemptions from planning rules for non-government school building projects under the Building Education Revolution and made the Planning Minister the responsible authority for all stimulus-funded social housing initiatives.

Save Our Suburbs president Ian Wood was scathing of the dramatic increase in ministerial planning intervention.

"Planning is about planning cities, it is not about economic issues. It is about traffic management, urban consolidation and taking into account all the long-term effects," he said.....”

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/states-planning-seizures-attacked-20100810-11y9a.html>

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Developer contributions capped in NSW but neglected in Victoria

Wednesday, 11 August 2010

SW Comment: Developments such as Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site impose enormous strain on the community. In Victoria the developer contributions have been minimal but NSW imposed much more realistic developer contributions (sometimes up to \$34,000 per bedroom) reflecting the community sentiment that if the developer makes profit from building huge developments, the individual ratepayers in those municipalities should not pick up the tab for the cost of new or improved infrastructure and community service requirements. Recent changes in NSW impose a limit of \$20,000 per dwelling. If translated to the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site this would mean \$8.25 million would be paid by the developer to Hobsons Bay City Council.

See NSW Developer contribution minute from City of Sydney Minutes June 2010

http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/documents/meetings/2010/Council/210610/100621_COUNCIL_ITEM31.pdf

“The State Government has announced major changes to the section 94 development contributions framework that will slash development contributions to all councils. The changes, announced without any consultation with local government as part of the State Budget, will have an especially devastating effect in our urban renewal areas such as Green Square.

The changes are:

- Section 94 development contributions levies for residential properties under s94 are now capped at a maximum of \$20,000 per dwelling or lot. This cap came into immediate effect on Monday, 7 June 2010 and overrides any previous approvals to exceed the \$20,000 threshold.
- A restriction on the types of infrastructure that can be funded via s94 levies to ‘essential infrastructure’.

Council will be forced to fund any shortfalls in infrastructure funding from other revenue sources such as borrowings and/or increases in general rates; or through a ‘Special Variation’ to rates. We can only apply a ‘Special Variation’ to cover any shortfall if we receive permission from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). The Government has not yet defined ‘essential infrastructure’. I share the concerns of the Local Government and Shires’ Associations that the Government could restrict levies to the funding of land acquisition (for open space and community facilities), roads, stormwater and transport facilities. If these changes go ahead, the City will be prevented from collecting local contributions to fund recreational, civic or community facilities, which will instead need to be funded from other revenue sources.....

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Fears rise for Greenland ice mass - Global sea levels up seven metres in 100 years.

Thursday, 12 August 2010

What would a 7 metre rise in sea levels in the next 100 years mean for Williamstown.....? The Greenland ice mass could be the beginning of an inevitable process worldwide with the increased temperatures of climate change. The development of the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site could be a big investment in a “temporary” building!

The Age
Suzanne Goldenberg, Washington
August 12, 2010 - 3:00AM

“THE entire ice mass of Greenland will disappear if temperatures rise by as little as 2 degrees, with severe consequences for the rest of the world, a panel of scientists has warned the US Congress.

Greenland shed its largest chunk of ice in nearly half-a-century last week, and faces an even grimmer future, according to Richard Alley, a geosciences professor at

Pennsylvania State University.

"Sometime in the next decade we may pass that tipping point which would put us warmer than temperatures that Greenland can survive," Professor Alley told a briefing in Congress, adding a rise in the range of 2 to 7 degrees would mean the obliteration of Greenland's ice sheet.

The fall-out would be felt thousands of kilometres from the Arctic, unleashing a global sea-level rise of seven metres, he warned. Low-lying cities such as New Orleans would vanish. "What is going on in the Arctic now is the biggest and fastest thing that nature has ever done," he said.....

<http://www.theage.com.au/world/fears-rise-for-greenland-ice-mass-20100811-11znz.html>

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Windsor looms as election spoiler but Williamstown's Heritage and Jobs ignored

Thursday, 12 August 2010

SW Comment - The Liberals missed their golden opportunity to disallow Minister Madden's decision on the rezoning "Residential" of the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site. This site was supposed to be protected by the Shipyard Strategy Plan with JOBS in Williamstown protected. The Liberals sided with the ALP in the Legislative Chamber of Victoria's parliament against The Greens on 13 April . This makes one wonder how serious they are in defeating the Minister on planning decisions where wealthy developer are involved. What went on behind closed doors with the Ministerial Advisors and the developer or in Liberal Party headquarters? One day we might find out if ministerial advisors are required to appear before the parliament!

The Age
Paul Austin

August 12, 2010 - 3:00AM

“THE Windsor Hotel redevelopment affair could blow up before November's state election, with key upper house MPs contemplating the arrest of senior government advisers for contempt of Parliament.

The non-Labor parties are expected to use their numbers in the upper house to order the advisers to give sworn evidence about whether Premier John Brumby and Planning Minister Justin Madden were involved in an attempt to corrupt planning laws.

But the government intends to order the staff - Mr Brumby's chief media advisers George Svigos and Fiona Macrae and Mr Madden's chief-of-staff Justin Jarvis and former press secretary Peta Duke - to refuse to appear.

In a report to Parliament yesterday, Greens MP Greg Barber said that if the advisers maintained their defiant stand, they should be taken into custody by the upper house's security chief, the Usher of the Black Rod.

Mr Barber said he would then expect the government to mount a legal challenge in the Supreme Court - bringing on a constitutional battle over whether the executive or the Parliament is the supreme body.....”

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/windsor-looms-as-election-spoiler-20100811-11zt1.html>

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Residents on warpath over planning

Monday, 16 August 2010

In this article in The Age (below), the Planning Minister comments

".... communities had to decide if they wanted old industrial land to provide extra housing or to remain for industrial use..."

Question when did Williamstown community get a choice on the zoning of the land - the zoning was changed on the sole application of the developer?

The previous planning scheme amendment, C33 "Hobsons Bay Industrial Land Management Strategy" for Precinct 20 Industrial_Land_Management_Strategy240608.pdf stated that "A residential outcome within this precinct, will also improve the overall amenity of the area, and is the

Council's preferred option" -

NOTE "WITHIN THIS PRECINCT" not the whole precinct.

The Strategy went on to say "The Minister of Planning directed the Council to amend the Industrial Land Management Strategy to reflect the Government position on protecting the Port Environs. In light of this the Council's second option is to see the site redeveloped for professional service/commercial offices and light industries. These would also result in a desirable outcome which would assist in meeting the needs of the local population. Tourism uses could be considered appropriate depending on the individual proposal, which may further support the growing tourism industry in Williamstown.

Land zoned IN3Z and IN1Z fronting Ann St, 55-57 Nelson Place (hotel) and 41 Nelson Place (motor mechanic) should be considered for residential purposes, to provide a better amenity outcome for residents on the opposite side of Ann St. Properties would have to front Ann St, and demonstrate appropriate attenuation features to buffer against any concerns in relation to the Port of Melbourne and Tenix. In this context, it is considered that part of the precinct be identified as a Strategic Redevelopment Area. Any rezoning must foremost ensure protection of the Tenix shipbuilding facility from sensitive amenity uses....."

C33 received full community consultation. So the community discussion and input was ignored by the minister, even his own direction of December 2008 was ignored when 15 months later he changed the whole of the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site to Residential 1.

The Age

Jason Dowling and Simon Johanson

August 16, 2010 - 3:00AM

The graphic accompanying this article in the newspaper shows under the header "Battle of the Burbs" proposed developments at Hobsons Bay Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site), Moreland, Yarra and Bayside municipalities.

"BATTLES between developers and local communities over giant urban renewal projects have broken out across Melbourne.

And with the state government planning to house an

additional 316,000 residents in Melbourne's "established areas" over the next 20 years and with many former industrial sites ripe for development, confrontations between developers and local communities are tipped to soar. In Williamstown, residents are battling a huge residential development proposal on the former Woollen Mills site, while across the bay in Sandringham plans for a 500-dwelling development have energised the community.....
.....The opposition has produced a draft policy that would restrict residential towers to a maximum of nine storeys in the suburbs. Planning Minister Justin Madden dismissed the idea. He said Melbourne needed more housing, and *communities had to decide if they wanted old industrial land to provide extra housing or to remain for industrial use.* He said the high cost of cleaning up old industrial sites often meant residential developments had to be large to ensure they were economically viable. Mr Madden said there should be strategic planning in advance in which councils consulted communities about where additional housing should be located.

"We're working with local government around housing growth requirements so that local governments can identify the housing growth needs over the next 20 years or so and then they can identify where they justifiably think the housing can go and in a sense the sort of numbers - that is not without some sensitivity," he said.

Mr Madden said additional housing was not just about population growth. "If we had no population growth we would still need more housing because there is a change in the way people are forming their households. People are forming smaller households," he said.....

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/residents-on-warpath-over-planning-20100815-12593.html>

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Nelson Place Village now 456 dwellings up by more than 10%

Tuesday, 17 August 2010

Planning Panels Victoria Website now has a list of SUBMISSIONS to the Ministers Advisory Committee

You can view the submissions received

<http://dsedocs.obsidian.com.au/planning/Former%20Port%20Phillip%20Woollen%20Mill%20Submissions/>

The list includes

DIIRD - Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development who are against the high rise development

Nelson Place Village Submission Part 1 only can be downloaded. In Part 1 the requested building heights is up to 47m - higher than previous applications. To find out how many dwellings they are seeking you need to refer to Part

2. Part 2 is too large for download and PPV say it has to be viewed at the library or you can request a CD or email copy

Only one submission apart from the developer is supporting the high rise development that submission wants industry removed from Williamstown and a totally residential suburb establishing.

Save Williamstown has viewed the documents in Nelson Place Village Submission Part 2 which show that over 10% more dwellings are being sought. This means even higher density. Bruce Henderson Architects documents refer to 456 dwellings but the traffic engineer goes even higher with 497 dwellings referenced in his report. The building rises to over 49 metres above sea-level and what appears to be 3 or 4 levels of underground parking. Even though the 300 m buffer zone goes through the middle of the site, the developer continues to have two of the high rise apartment blocks within the buffer zone.

No options are listed now only one development plan.

As the submission is over 20MB it isn't available for download. You need to phone or email Planning Panels Victoria and ask them to send you a CD if you want to see the proposed development.

<http://dsedocs.obsidian.com.au/planning/Former%20Port%20Phillip%20Woollen%20Mill%20Submissions/>

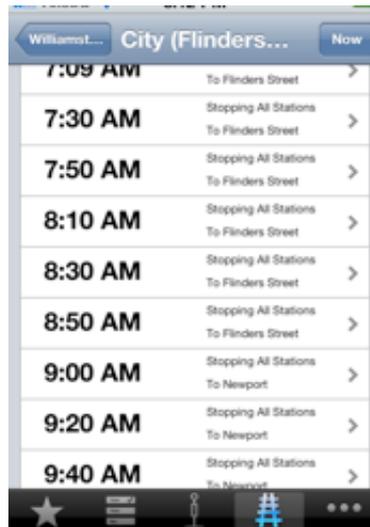
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Time	Destination
7:09 AM	To Flinders Street
7:30 AM	Stopping All Stations To Flinders Street
7:50 AM	Stopping All Stations To Flinders Street
8:10 AM	Stopping All Stations To Flinders Street
8:30 AM	Stopping All Stations To Flinders Street
8:50 AM	Stopping All Stations To Flinders Street
9:00 AM	Stopping All Stations To Newport
9:20 AM	Stopping All Stations To Newport
9:40 AM	Stopping All Stations To Newport

Regional Rail Link: Journey 'to double'

Wednesday, 18 August 2010

The Mail

BY CAMERON TAIT

18 Aug, 2010 12:00 AM

MORE Newport, Williamstown, Altona and Laverton commuters will be forced into their cars with the arrival of the \$4.3billion Regional Rail Link, according to a public transport advocate.

Werribee resident Colin McIntyre says journey times to Geelong could almost double under the plans.

Train and car travel times between Newport and Geelong are at the moment almost the same, though train travel times are likely to increase from about 47 minutes to 90 minutes, under the project.

Mr McIntyre said it would further add to the pain already suffered by those commuting between the south western suburbs and the Geelong region.

"Unlike other regional train services, which stop almost all of the time as they leave or enter the suburban network, the majority of those between Geelong and the south western suburbs are on a two-hour frequency for a large part of the day," he said.

"The current service is totally inequitable; it keeps people poor."

Mr McIntyre said under the Regional Rail Link, due to be finished in 2014, regional trains would no longer travel through Newport or Werribee....

<http://www.themail.com.au/news/local/news/general/regional-rail-link-journey-to-double/1915693.aspx>

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Guidelines could kill off coastal building - will buildings in danger be insurable?

Friday, 20 August 2010

The Age

Kelsey Munro and Matthew Moore August 20, 2010

“THOUSANDS of NSW coastal development sites may never be built on under new government guidelines directing councils to limit construction on beachfront and lakeside land under threat from rising sea levels.

The NSW Coastal Planning Guidelines, released today, encourage councils to reject development and rezoning applications on land deemed at risk.

The guidelines define hazard areas and urge coastal councils to take a strategic, risk-based approach to plan for the impacts of climate change.

Homes in at-risk areas may need to be relocatable so they

can be moved to higher ground.

Councils are strongly discouraged from intensifying development or rezoning land from rural to urban in high-risk areas "unless the impacts of sea level rise can be effectively managed".

Adaptation strategies could include structural protection works, but councils should prioritise "soft engineering options" such as beach nourishment or re-establishing barrier dune systems over the construction of seawalls or sandbagging, which might redirect erosion if poorly designed, the document says.

The Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said: "It is vital to properly plan for sea level rise to ensure homes are not built too close to hazard areas."

The guidelines cite flooding in coastal lakes and rivers as a key issue of concern.

Councils are to map hazard areas on the basis of the state government's benchmarks for sea level rise, which anticipate a 40-centimetre rise by 2050 and 90 centimetres by 2100. Such rises would be associated with projected coastal erosion of between 45 to 90 metres, the guide says. A NSW Planning spokesman said that while the guidelines were not statutory, similar documents were regularly used to inform land-use planning.

But it was not clear whether councils that disregard the guidelines could be held liable for allowing development on at-risk areas that in future were damaged by sea level rise.

"The department would prefer not to be giving legal advice on liability issues as it is not possible to pre-empt or predict the wide variety of circumstances in which these issues might arise," he said.

Insurers have been pressuring governments to clarify where responsibility lies for damage associated with climate change.

The Insurance Council of Australia has not seen the guidelines, but a spokeswoman said: "We welcome any initiative that provides greater clarity ... in [coastal] risk management."..."

<http://m.theage.com.au/environment/guidelines-could-kill-off-coastal-building-20100819-12s53.html>

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Tensions rise over housing projects (similar size to Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site)

Friday, 20 August 2010

The Age

Simon Johanson August 20, 2010

"A MASSIVE complex of 550 dwellings on Channel Nine's former home in Richmond may further inflame tensions between developers and communities over giant urban renewal sites across Melbourne.

The development plans, outlined by property giant Vivas Lend Lease to neighbouring residents yesterday, reveal a \$400 million project, housing 1100 people in townhouses and eight-storey apartments in an area the size of a city block.

"We understand the significance of this site to the Richmond community. Its redevelopment presents a great opportunity

and also a serious responsibility," the company said. Lend Lease would consult the community and had reduced the height impact on the neighbourhood by placing townhouses on the outer edge of the block and taller apartment buildings towards the middle, development manager Ben Coughlan said.

Mr Coughlan said the land at 22 Bendigo Street had a rich history. It was formerly a piano factory and then a Heinz factory before becoming host to some of Australian television's most memorable shows. These included In Melbourne Tonight, Sale of the Century, The Sullivans and Hey Hey It's Saturday.

Because most inner-city developments are residential, large projects such as the Channel Nine site are straining local services, Yarra councillor Steve Jolly said.

"From the perspective of a local resident, traffic and parking is dire there. And there is a dearth of services, particularly childcare," Cr Jolly said. "They squeeze in as many people as possible.".....

.....Plans for 460 apartments and 18 townhouses - ranging from two to 16 storeys - have angered locals who say it will destroy the character of their blue-chip neighbourhood.

Armadale residents accused the state government of failing to heed their concerns.

"We're concerned about the habit of the state planning minister to call in these projects without due process being followed," said Orrong Group spokeswoman Kirsten Anderson. "Our fear is that it's going to jettison any third-party rights to object [to the development]."

<http://m.theage.com.au/victoria/tensions-rise-over-housing-project-on-old-channel-nine-site-20100819-12s1x.html>

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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



Delahunty memoir reveals developer sway on planning

Monday, 23 August 2010

The Age

Melissa Fyfe August 22, 2010

“DEVELOPERS wielded influence over the state government in covert ways, were pushy and loved to have “a word in the ear” of party leaders about their substantial political donations, former planning minister Mary Delahunty has revealed in her memoir.

In contrast to the assurances of Premier John Brumby and Planning Minister Justin Madden, Ms Delahunty says developers who make donations to the Labor Party do get their interests looked after by Brumby government advisers, who sometimes contact the planning minister's office

inquiring about the development's progress.

Ms Delahunty revealed her intense frustration with some community anti-development groups. In her new book *Public Life, Private Grief*, she says she felt, at times, like "wanting to lean over and choke them".

Ms Delahunty, Victoria's planning minister from 2002 to 2005, describes developers as having "brutal expectations" about the pace of planning changes and their financial reward.

"Well-heeled developers assume that their at-times substantial donations to the Labor or Liberal parties will guarantee ready access to the minister and a favourable planning decision."

While "most of us in government" did not share the view of such developers, she said, the business heavyweights "loved" to have "a word in the ear of party leaders" at private functions, "congratulating them on how well the government was going and adding a throwaway line about their latest donation to the particular party".

"Such bonhomie could occasionally result, a day or two later, in a friendly call to the planning minister office from a government adviser interested in certain planning matters." The Brumby government has consistently denied that developers get special access or treatment due to their donations, or that they wield influence in Labor fund-raising functions. Last August, when controversy over "cash-for-chat" functions blew up, Mr Brumby said: "I wouldn't talk to anybody in any forum about any contract that is before government, about any tender that is before government.".....

.....Planning Minister Justin Madden was recently criticised for intervening in an increasingly large number of projects, with little transparency around why he is intervening and which Labor-linked lobbying groups are involved. In June, *The Age* revealed that builders and property developers have bankrolled Victorian Labor with donations running into the millions during its decade in office...."

<http://m.theage.com.au/victoria/delahunty-memoir-reveals-developer-sway-on-planning-20100821-13a1i.html>

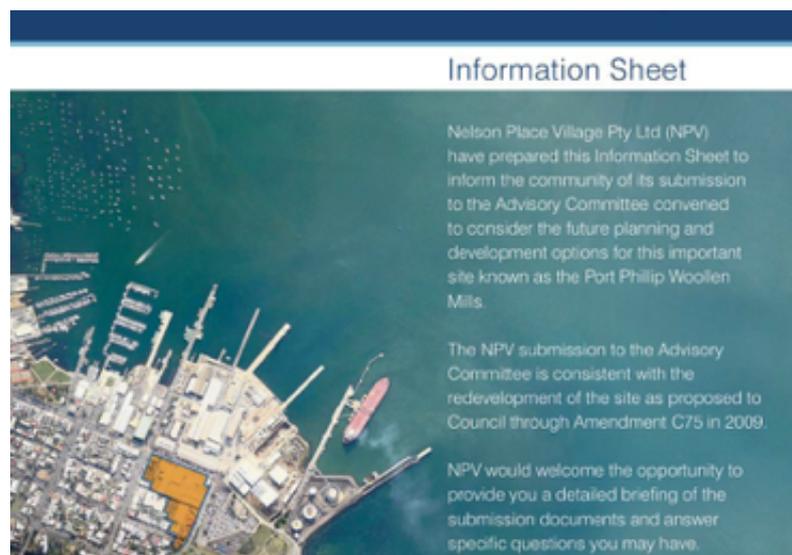
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SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



URBIS and EVOLVE give some info to residents

Monday, 23 August 2010

Save Williamstown has learned that an Information Sheet with minimal descriptions of its planning changes has been distributed by Urbis/Evolve around the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site. The sheet lets people know where they can view the newly submitted plans but gives wrong information to residents stating that submissions can be made until the end of August. This is clearly wrong, submissions close 27th August - that is this Friday which doesn't give residents a lot of time to see copies of what Urbis and Evolve are planning. Also the information sheet fails to mention that they are now asking for a 47 metres zone within the Development Plan Overlay and that the Advisory Committee is supposedly considering a Design

and Development Overlay.

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Fuelling the fire

Friday, 27 August 2010

The Star By Nicole Precel
27th July 2010 11:06:17 AM

“A DECISION on the future of the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill is closer

...Residents have until 27 August to submit to the advisory committee on the proposed redevelopment of the site....

.....Community Group Save Williamstown has distributed a pamphlet advising residents to raise the issues of height, threat to heritage, impact on schools and child care, increased traffic and local parking, impact on ship building and also the affect on industry.

Among their concerns is the proximity of the proposed residential redevelopment at the former Port Phillip Woollen Mills to the Exxon Mobil Fuel terminal.....

....A similar proposal went to VCAT on 17 June, about proposed residential developments which were close to the Mobil Yarraville Terminal and were deemed inappropriate.

.....“Mobil is nominated in the Terms Of Reference as needing to be consulted on this issue. The panel is therefore aware of the need to consider buffer distance requirements,” he said.

Exxon Mobil spokesperson said the Altona Refinery uses the Mobil-operated Port Gellibrand dock for the storage and transportation of crude oil and petroleum products.”

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/story/92239>

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