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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Time short for Hobsons Bay as sea levels rise, council warned

Wednesday, 1 August 2012

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
1 Aug, 2012 12:00 AM

“MORE action must be taken to combat the effects of rising sea levels on Hobsons Bay, a councillor has warned.

Speaking at last week's council meeting, Williamstown ward councillor Angela Altair noted Planning Minister Matthew Guy's response to the coastal climate change advisory committee report and its implications for Hobsons Bay.

Changes to the state planning policy framework include increasing floor levels by 20centimetres over current one-in-100-year flood levels for new buildings. The framework plans for a minimum 80-centimetre sea level rise by 2100 in new greenfield developments outside existing town boundaries. Federal government mapping based on a 2009 CSIRO study predicted a 1.1-metre sea level rise by 2100 along the western side of Port Phillip Bay.

Under current climate one-in-100-year storm conditions, the study predicts Altona and Point Cook's Cheetham Wetlands and the Point Cook RAAF Base would be prone to "extensive inundation".

Based on data of rising tide levels as a result of climate change and global carbon emissions, the minimum sea level rise at Werribee South was 80centimetres. But areas like Port Melbourne and Williamstown were deemed relatively protected because a large part of the land had been raised as part of marina developments.

Cr Altair said the council and all authorities had to be proactive in protecting the community and adapting to the changing climate.....”

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/time-short-for-hobsons-bay-as-sea-levels-rise-council-warned/2641644.aspx>

Save Williamstown comment:

Plans for the Former Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site include under ground garaging below current sea levels and the site itself is very close to sea levels predicted in the next 50 years.. How responsible is a responsible authority which allows such development be it Council, VCAT or the minister himself??

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Webb Dock: Residents reject Container City pledges

Wednesday, 8 August 2012

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
8 Aug, 2012 12:00 AM

"AS Williamstown residents prepare for a second public meeting about the Webb Dock expansion, the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) says the effect on residential amenity will be "imperceptible".

PoMC chief executive officer Stephen Bradford dismissed reports that the \$1.6billion expansion would create more noise than Hong Kong's port. "Hong Kong is in the top 10-15 ports in the world; Melbourne is No.51, which is consistent with our population," he said.

"To suggest this will have more noise than Hong Kong is inconceivable." While tenderers who are sensitive to the community and to minimising adverse effects from lighting will be favoured, this will not be mandated. "Well, are you going to mandate the levels we suspect ... the law determines noise levels - the law determines that - and lighting, there are

legal limits," Mr Bradford said.

"We're asking them to put in their best environmental considerations, to consider the residents, to consider the terminal, to consider the trucks."

As reported in the Weekly, Williamstown residents say Hobsons Bay will be dubbed 'Container City' with unsightly containers stacked seven-high in the distance.

"That is consistent with world container stacking; reasonable limits," Mr Bradford said.

Concerned residents also say their city view will be replaced by a 1.8-kilometre line of container ships.

"We think it's imperceptible ... imperceptible," Mr Bradford said.

Williamstown resident Denis Weily, who organised this month's public meeting which Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong and Port Melbourne councils have been invited to attend, said the dictionary defined imperceptible as very slight, gradual or subtle....."

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/webb-dock-residents-reject-container-city-pledges/2646339.aspx?src=rss>

Save Williamstown comment:

Noise was an EPA consideration at the Port Phillip Woollen Mill Advisory Committee hearings but in Victoria light is not part of the EPA rules!

Nighttime light and noise was an issue in closing down nighttime operations at Garden Island Sydney but it seems Victorian laws do not extend to protection of residents from light nuisance

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Hundreds sign 'Save Williamstown' pledge
Update - NOW well over 1000

Tuesday, 21 August 2012

Hobsons Bay Weekly
Aug. 21, 2012, 6:48 a.m.

"More than 430 people have signed a "pledge to save Williamstown" from being "turned into the Gold Coast". The campaign by Save Williamstown is in response to the Williamstown tower plans for the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site. As revealed last month by the Weekly, plans submitted to Hobsons Bay Council show 765 apartments and 25 townhouses could be built on the site, which is bounded by Nelson Place and Ann, Aitken and Kanowna streets.

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SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Historic Woollen Mill awaits wrecker's ball

Wednesday, 29 August 2012

Hobsons Bay Weekly
by BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
Aug. 29, 2012, 1:59 a.m.

"WILLIAMSTOWN residents are outraged at a developer's bid to demolish the old Nugget boot polish factory at the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill development site in Williamstown.

Meanwhile, investigations into the Oriental Hotel, which the same developer wants to demolish, reveal it could be Victoria's oldest three-storey brick hotel, dating back to 1854.

Urbis has applied, on behalf of Nelson Place Village Pty Ltd, to raze virtually all buildings between Windsor Terrace and Kanowna, Cecil and Aitken streets. The exception is the Britannia Hotel, which was the subject of an earlier application rejected by Hobsons Bay Council.

Demolition would make way for plans by Nelson Place Village Pty Ltd

to build more than 400 dwellings, including four towers up to 13 storeys high.

As reported by the Weekly, a construction management plan shows 765 apartments and 25 townhouses could be built on the site bounded by Nelson Place and Ann, Aitken and Kanowna streets. Eighty-eight submissions to date have been received by the council in response to a demolition application for the Nugget site.

The application to demolish the Oriental has not been advertised so submissions are not yet being received Williamstown historian Brian Haynes said the Nugget factory was originally the P&O Steam Laundry. "The laundry is important as a commercial industrial structure from the 1880s when Williamstown was a busy international port. From 1909 until 1976 it was used as the Nugget (Reckitt and Coleman) factory.

"The Oriental Hotel is our oldest remaining hotel building in Williamstown, having been constructed in 1854 as the Cox Family Hotel, when labour was difficult to procure, and [was] in operation before the Pier Hotel.

"It is possibly the oldest three-storey hotel in Melbourne or Victoria from that era."

Evolve Development managing director Ashley Williams said the Nugget factory building was not covered by any specific heritage overlay....."

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