

About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Minister grilled over ports report release

Wednesday, 8 June 2011

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
8 Jun 2011

“VICTORIA’S opposition planning spokesman Brian Tee has used parliamentary question time to grill the planning minister for not releasing a Ports and Environs Advisory Committee report.

The report reviews planning controls for Melbourne’s ports and will affect a high-rise tower development proposed for the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site at Williamstown.

The site is across the road from BAE’s military shipyard and

within the 300-metre safety buffer surrounding Mobil's crude oil tanks. Mr Tee asked Planning Minister Matthew Guy about comments made to the Weekly in an article published on May 25.....

....On March 31, the Weekly lodged an FOI request with the Department of Planning and Community Development for the Ports and Environs report. The department said it did not have the report. Following last week's parliamentary exchange, Ms Perry said the department now had the report. The FOI office has reinstated the Weekly's request and will decide within five days whether to release the report..”

<http://www.hobsonsabayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/minister-grilled-over-ports-report-release/2188101.aspx>

COMMUNITY COMMENTS ARE INVITED ON THE WEEKLY WEBSITE

< previous

next >



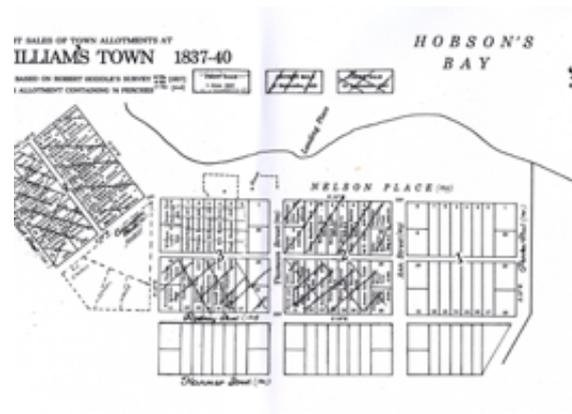
[About Us](#) [Save Williamstown Inc](#) [PPWM Site](#) [Status of Plans](#)

[Objecting to Plans](#) [2012 Planning Scheme Amendment](#) [2010 SW Presentation](#)

[2014 NUGGET Heritage](#) [2014 Oriental Heritage](#) [ISSUES](#) [Events](#) [Downloads](#)

[NEWS](#) [Contact Us](#)

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Battery touted as tourist hook - IMPORTANT Heritage Discoveries in Williamstown

Wednesday, 8 June 2011

What historic treasures might be found in the heritage land laid out by Hoddle in 1839 between Nelson Place, Kanowna St, Ann St and Cecil St? Should the developer be allowed to concrete over this land and put 50 metre towers on it? Is that how little the heritage of Victoria and Australia should be valued?

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
8 Jun 2011

“A MILITARY labyrinth unearthed at Williamstown Cricket Ground could be opened to the public. As revealed by the

Weekly last week, the discovery of several vaulted chambers follows the discovery of a single bunker in January. The first bunker was found when an underground rainwater tank was being installed for the Williamstown Cricket Club's \$8 million expansion.....”

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/williamstown-military-chambers-touted-as-tourist-hook/2188098.aspx>

AND

Exciting Finds at Burbank Oval

Archaeologists have unearthed the ruins of three more historic artillery structures during the redevelopment of Burbank Oval at the Williamstown Cricket Ground. Hobsons Bay City Council and Heritage Victoria have been working with archaeologist Geoff Hewitt to excavate part of the cricket ground site following the discovery of an underground artillery battery in January. A lengthy investigation confirmed the January find was part of the original 1858 Right Battery. Over the past couple of weeks, three more finds have been uncovered, including a double ordinance magazine to the west of the W.L. Floyd Pavilion, which has been damaged by past events. Below the original floor of the W.L. Floyd Pavilion another magazine and cannon emplacement were discovered. Both of these structures were severely damaged during the construction of the pavilion in 1930. These remnants have been retained but will remain below the new floor to the pavilion. The original battery will be retained and made available to the public in the future as part of the redevelopment. The Council is working with Heritage Victoria on the final site management plan for all components of this battery. The finds have had little effect on the construction schedule of the redevelopment, however landscaping and car parking layouts will be amended to accommodate the discoveries.....

<http://williamstownadvertiser.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

COMMUNITY COMMENTS ARE INVITED ON THE WEEKLY WEBSITE

< previous

next >



About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

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Annex Map 2: Land use planning advisory areas for Gellibrand Tank Farm, Williamstown



Nerves fray over Spotswood fuel tank

Wednesday, 8 June 2011

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
8 Jun 2011

“SPOTSWOOD residents are worried about a 10-metre biodiesel tank being erected by Shell near their homes. It comes amid growing fears about residential development near major hazard facilities.

Christine Harris, whose home is closest to the new tank, said she was concerned for the safety of residents near the Craig Street terminal.

She said those fears increased after learning WorkSafe had

concerns about any residential development on the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site in Williamstown, which is within 300 metres of Mobil's Gellibrand Pier crude oil tanks.

"I would like to know why Shell can build a potentially dangerous fuel storage tank within 300 metres of my house without there being any consultation with me," she said....

....State Williamstown MP Wade Noonan called on Planning Minister Matthew Guy to protect residents near hazardous facilities.

"The bigger issue here relates to whether our state planning laws adequately protect new or existing residents who live in close proximity to a major hazard facility.

"I've asked Planning Minister Matthew Guy to review this issue, but to date he has simply fobbed me off."

The Weekly is still waiting for a response to its freedom of information request to see the Ports and Environs Advisory Committee report, which is believed to contain recommendations for new development near major hazard facilities."

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/nerves-fray-over-spotswood-fuel-tank/2188108.aspx>

COMMUNITY COMMENTS ARE INVITED ON THE WEEKLY WEBSITE

< previous

next >



About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Precious facades recognised in sweeping heritage order

Friday, 10 June 2011

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN NOTES THAT:

Williamstown's own Hoddle Street Grid needs the same sort of protection that is explained in The Age article below. For example: building of significance which has no protection is the Nuttall Factory within the development area of the Port Phillip Woollen Mills Site

Nelson Place Williamstown Photo Courtesy of Bill Burrell ©

The Age

Jason Dowling June 10, 2011 - 12:11AM

“THE biggest expansion of heritage protection for buildings in Melbourne's Hoddle Grid in almost three decades has been

approved by Melbourne City Council.

The council's planning committee this week unanimously approved a recommendation to extend heritage protection to 98 buildings in the CBD, including the Lindrum Hotel on Flinders Street, the Argus building on La Trobe Street and the ACA building on Queen Street.

Heritage campaigners have welcomed the boost in heritage protection following a string of disappointments, including the demolition last year of the art deco Lonsdale House.

Rohan Storey from Melbourne Heritage Action said: "It is very important council has made the big effort to review the heritage in the city that has not been reviewed for 25 years - it is time to catch up."....."

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/precious-facades-recognised-in-sweeping-heritage-order-20110609-1fv0s.html>

< previous

next >



About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



The bad, the ugly and the dysfunctional

Wednesday, 15 June 2011

The Age
Miki Perkins
June 15, 2011

“WHAT turns a high-rise into a slum, a major road into a traffic snarl, or a creek into a dun-coloured stormwater drain?

Comments

Poor planning, says the state's Planning Institute, which has come up with a list of Melbourne's worst planning disasters for The Age to showcase places that hamper traffic flow, isolate communities or disregard amenity.

Steve Dunn, president of the Victorian Division of the Planning Institute of Australia, said the notorious St Kilda Junction was high on the list, with the gateway to one of Melbourne's best-known boulevards an ugly and complicated intersection that

turned into a "traffic sewer" at peak hour.....

.....In the city's inner north, the high-rise housing commission flats in Fitzroy are "high-rise slums", a well-intentioned example of 1960s slum reclamation that neglected to provide facilities for residents, Mr Dunn said.

Accommodation is basic and much of the land surrounding the flats is given over to car parks, leaving limited space for amenities that improve the neighbourhood.....

....Professor Dovey said.

"They lost their nerve, they thought Melburnians couldn't handle a move to a low-carbon city and I think they were wrong," he said.

"I don't believe what planning ministers say any more about growth boundaries - every time developers come and camp in the minister's office they just buckle."....."

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/the-bad-the-ugly-and-the-dysfunctional-20110614-1g1x5.html>

< previous

next >



[About Us](#) [Save Williamstown Inc](#) [PPWM Site](#) [Status of Plans](#)
[Objecting to Plans](#) [2012 Planning Scheme Amendment](#) [2010 SW Presentation](#)
[2014 NUGGET Heritage](#) [2014 Oriental Heritage](#) [ISSUES](#) [Events](#) [Downloads](#)
[NEWS](#) [Contact Us](#)

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Industry advice to reform Victoria's planning system

Wednesday, 15 June 2011

Media Release Premier of Victoria

Wednesday, 15 June 2011

Planning Minister Matthew Guy today established an expert advisory group to help overhaul the planning system in Victoria. The new advisory group is part of the Victorian Coalition Government's planning reform agenda aimed at restoring confidence and certainty in the planning system.

"The planning system has not been overhauled since 1993, meaning it has developed in an uncoordinated, unplanned and confusing manner. Victorian communities deserve better," Mr Guy said.

"I have appointed Geoff Underwood to head the independent advisory group formed by planning experts to advise me on aspects of the Victorian planning system and legislation that can

be improved."

Mr Underwood is a planning consultant with 40 years of experience in Victorian state governments. He has worked with industry groups and been on numerous national committees and inquiries.

"The Victorian planning system needs to be more transparent in its decision making, contain simpler planning processes, clearer rules and certainty in outcomes," Mr Guy said.

"More than 55,000 development applications are considered in Victoria each year, representing over \$17 billion of investment. Victorians want to have confidence in a planning system to effectively manage this ongoing growth and change."

The advisory group will be an ongoing part of other initiatives already underway to reform the planning system including introducing code assessment, improving the development contributions system, reviewing the Urban Growth Boundary, and establishing an Urban Renewal Authority.

"The advisory group will give an industry perspective on the legislative base and structure of planning schemes (including the structure of state and local policy provisions), and the regulations under The Planning and Environment Act 1987," Mr Guy said.

"The advisory group will be seeking submissions from all interested people and groups on issues they have with planning controls and how they think they can be improved."

Other advisory group members include Catherine Heggen, a consultant town planner; David Keenan, the CEO of Mitchell Shire Council; Terry Montebello, a planning law expert; Jane Nathan, a former councillor, Mayor and commissioner at municipal level; and Leigh Phillips, an experienced planner who has served in various state departments.

The advisory group has been asked to make an initial report to the Minister by 30 November 2011. Details of the Ministerial Advisory Group will be available at www.dpcd.vic.gov.au

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/1168-industry-advice-to-reform-victorias-planning-system.html>

< previous

next >



About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



“The housing we’d choose” - Grattan Institute

Monday, 20 June 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

20 June 2011

What Australians Actually Want From Their Housing

“We can now replace myths and assumptions with real evidence about the kinds of housing Australians want”, said Jane-Frances Kelly, Cities Program Director at the Grattan Institute, on the release of the report, The Housing We’d Choose.

Grattan examined the housing preferences of more than 700 Sydney and Melbourne residents in a detailed survey.

It found that once people took into account real-world factors such as current housing costs and their income, they chose a far wider range of housing types than the stereotype of all Australians wanting a detached home on a large block would suggest.

However, “we’re just not building the variety of housing that

Australians say they want”, Jane-Frances said.

In particular, she pointed to shortages (compared to what we say we want) of semi-detached homes and apartments in the middle and outer areas of both Melbourne and Sydney.

The report argues that there are barriers to delivering more of the housing people say they want. These include the cost of materials and labour for buildings over four storeys, land assembly and preparation, and the risk and uncertainty of our planning systems.

Building enough of the right housing is not only vital to meet the range of choices individuals would like to make, but also for the way in which our cities will grow.

City structure can significantly affect congestion, the distance we have to travel to work and to see friends, the cost of infrastructure, concentrations of disadvantage and other issues vital to both our everyday lives and the health of our cities.

“We should not be afraid to shape our cities: otherwise we risk them shaping us”, Jane-Frances said. “But we should shape them in accordance with what Australians say they want, not just what we think they want.”

<http://www.grattan.edu.au/home.php>

http://www.grattan.edu.au/publications/090_cities_report_housing_market.pdf

< previous

next >



About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

SAVE **WILLIAMSTOWN**



New lanes open in peak hour across West Gate Bridge

Wednesday, 22 June 2011

Media Release Premier of Victoria

Wednesday, 22 June 2011

Melbourne drivers can look forward to quicker, safer and less frustrating travel following today's commissioning of extra traffic lanes on the West Gate Bridge.

Victorian Roads Minister Terry Mulder said the opening of the fifth lane in each direction completes the freeway management system along the M1 corridor which will now be operational in peak times.

"The opening of the fifth lane on the West Gate Bridge is good news for Melbourne. It will not only mean an end to peak lane closures, but it will also help tackle the City's traffic congestion and deliver more reliable journeys between the CBD and the Western suburbs," Mr Mulder said.

"What's more, in the event of a break down or incident the extra lanes will help keep the traffic flowing with the freeway management system closing lanes and directing traffic safely around the scene."

Federal Infrastructure and Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said at completion the project will improve the flow of traffic across the West Gate Bridge, resulting in better driving conditions for the more than 130,000 motorists and 24,000 truck drivers which use this section of Melbourne's road network every day

"After 20 months of extensive strengthening work, the bridge is now able to carry a fifth lane in each direction," Mr Albanese said.

"The Federal Government is committed to working with the Victorian Government to build the modern, well planned road and rail infrastructure which will prevent Melbourne becoming gridlocked."

The West Gate Bridge Strengthening Project was delivered by an Alliance comprising VicRoads, John Holland, Sinclair Knight Merz and Flint & Neill, with funding from both the Victorian and Australian governments.

While five lanes are now open in each direction during peak traffic, works will continue on the West Gate Bridge until the end of the year and this will require ongoing off-peak lane closures.

"The majority of lane closures will continue at non-peak times. VicRoads will continue to advise motorists of these works and every effort will be made to minimise disruptions," Mr Mulder said.

West Gate Bridge users should look up and look ahead to the overhead electronic signs which, in the event of a break down or incident will instruct them on the prevailing speed restrictions and lane closures.

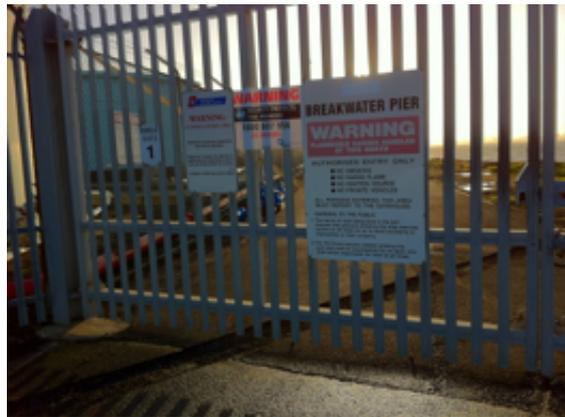
[< previous](#)

[next >](#)



About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Call for creation of new land court

Thursday, 23 June 2011

ABC News Victoria

A Melbourne law firm is calling for the establishment of a land and environment court in Victoria.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Casey City Council paid out more than \$23 million in May to residents of the Brookland Greens estate in Cranbourne, who were affected by a methane gas leak.

The leak was caused by an unlined landfill which was approved by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Manisha Blencowe of the law firm Slater and Gordon represented 750 property owners.

She says that case and Melbourne's rapid growth, has highlighted the need for a specialist court.

"We say in relation to technical disputes and matters which have

significant environmental implications, it's appropriate that there be a court with greater powers and a court of judicial record," she said.

Ms Blencowe says VCAT is overloaded with cases.

"As Melbourne grows and as we live in more densely occupied spaces within Melbourne, we are developing in areas that have dirty pasts," she said.

"We need to ensure that the scrutiny applied to the development of those sites is appropriate."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/06/23/3251133.htm>

< previous

next >



About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



RED-HOT report from a panel of planning experts & role of anti-corruption commission

Friday, 24 June 2011

The Age
Jason Dowling

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/man-with-a-plan-20110623-1gh9a.html>

“...Matthew Guy wants to throw out the state's planning system and start afresh. But not everyone is happy about it.

A RED-HOT report from a panel of planning experts landed recently on the desk of Planning Minister Matthew Guy. It makes recommendations on the future of a controversial 412 unit, 13-storey development in the genteel bayside suburb of Williamstown.

The development has raised the ire of local residents and the

dispute is emblematic of the political minefield in which planning ministers operate, where any errant comment or email can severely damage political careers and the credibility of a government.

On one side are well organised residents with a few big names (including former Labor premier Joan Kirner) supporting their cause against what they believe is a massive overdevelopment of the site. On the other is well connected Evolve Development - half owned by Liberal heavyweight and prominent Melburnian Ron Walker, who is known to pick up the phone and call the odd politician now and then.

The issue is so contentious that Guy bounced the report immediately to the Planning Department for advice before reading all of it himself. But he will have to make a decision eventually on this and many other similarly contentious suburban developments....

....."Our planning reforms are game changing in that they are going to fundamentally change the way the minister is involved in the system," Guy says.

This is a prudent move. A new anti-corruption commission could soon make the life of planning decision-makers more uncomfortable.

Guy has hit the ground running....."

[< previous](#)

[next >](#)



[About Us](#) [Save Williamstown Inc](#) [PPWM Site](#) [Status of Plans](#)
[Objecting to Plans](#) [2012 Planning Scheme Amendment](#) [2010 SW Presentation](#)
[2014 NUGGET Heritage](#) [2014 Oriental Heritage](#) [ISSUES](#) [Events](#) [Downloads](#)
[NEWS](#) [Contact Us](#)

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



\$1 billion development approved for Caulfield

Tuesday, 28 June 2011

Media Release Premier of Victoria

Wednesday, 28 June 2011

Planning Minister Matthew Guy today joined Member for Caulfield David Southwick, Racing Minister Denis Napthine and Chairman of the Melbourne Racing Club Mike Symons to announce the approval of a planning scheme amendment to allow for a \$1 billion development north of the Caulfield Racecourse.

The mixed-use 'Caulfield Village' development is close to the Caulfield Railway Station and has been in the pipeline since 2007. The development will include 1,200 apartments, 10,000m² of office space and 15,000m² of retail space including a supermarket. Approximately 2,000 car parking spaces will be provided within the development.

The development ranges from two storeys close to the existing residential precinct to a height limit of 20 storeys in the far eastern precinct.

Mr Guy said the development will be built on five hectares of land that is currently being used as a car park.

"This \$1 billion development at Caulfield is an excellent example of the positive outcomes that can be achieved when state and local government work together," Mr Guy said.

"The City of Glen Eira is to be commended for working constructively with my office, the Department, the local member David Southwick and the Melbourne Racing Club, to reach a proposal all parties agree on.

"The development will provide homes close to transport, education, employment and retail areas for thousands of Melburnians.

"This is a prime example of the urban renewal in key inner-city areas that the Victorian Coalition Government has been promoting," Mr Guy said.

More than 5,000 jobs will be created throughout the seven to ten year construction period, including employment generated in the wider community. More than 1,100 ongoing jobs will be created upon completion.

Mr Southwick said he was pleased that the Minister had approved the planning scheme amendment for the development, as it demonstrated the Victorian Coalition Government's strong commitment to increasing housing stock, improving affordability and optimising open space.

"Caulfield residents will also have improved access to open space and park facilities as a result of this development, and a lack of those spaces has been a real community concern that I have been campaigning on since taking office.

"This development will be an excellent destination for a variety of recreational activities, and Caulfield families and communities will enjoy facilities including a picnic area by the lake, a large off-leash dog area, walking and jogging paths and a junior soccer pitch making better use of unused land in the center of the racecourse," Mr Southwick said.

The infield public park on the racecourse will also include a children's play area, shade and toilet facilities, and a boardwalk around the lake including areas for fishing.

< previous

next >



About Us Save Williamstown Inc PPWM Site Status of Plans
Objecting to Plans 2012 Planning Scheme Amendment 2010 SW Presentation
2014 NUGGET Heritage 2014 Oriental Heritage ISSUES Events Downloads
NEWS Contact Us

SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



Williamstown development: Report 'bounce' worries residents

Thursday, 30 June 2011

Hobsons Bay Weekly
BY GOYA DMYTRYSHCHAK
29 Jun, 2011 12:00 AM

“WILLIAMSTOWN residents are calling on Planning Minister Matthew Guy to release a report that will determine the scope of development in their suburb.

The call follows an article in The Age last week saying the "red hot" report had landed on his desk before being referred to the Department of Planning and Community Development.

The report makes recommendations on a 412-unit, 13-storey development proposed by Nelson Place Village.

DPCD spokesman Seamus Haugh previously told the Weekly the report was due to go to the minister on April 29.

The Age article stated: "The issue is so contentious that Guy bounced the report immediately to the Planning Department for advice before reading all of it himself."

Save Williamstown lobby group spokesman Godfrey Moase said this was a test for Mr Guy.

"Now that the report has been given to the minister, we call on him to release it to the public. This is a major project proposal that will affect jobs, community safety and the infrastructure we use every day.

"We are not children; we are citizens and we have the right to know."

State Williamstown MP Wade Noonan said he was concerned about bureaucrats making the decisions.

"Anyone who has been close to this issue will know that there are senior members in the Department of Planning who are big supporters of high rise and high density.

"These departmental staff tend to dismiss the concerns of local residents by labelling objectors as 'nimbys'....."

<http://www.hobsonsbayweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/williamstown-development-report-bounce-worries-residents/2211101.aspx>

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< previous

next >

