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# SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



## Sheikh rattles role of planning secrecy

**Monday, 18 October 2010**

Even Beacons Cove could be outshadowed by this “future” development

See:

The Age

Cameron Houston October 18, 2010

“SECRECY surrounding a contentious apartment tower in Port Melbourne by a billionaire Kuwaiti royal has fuelled resident claims that the project has been deferred to avoid a voter backlash before the state election.

A spokesman for community group South Port Progress Association, Richard Roberts, questioned why a formal planning application had not been lodged, after the proposed foreshore development was revealed almost 18 months ago.

"There seems to be an effort to keep it quiet. It's been

mooted for a while, nothing is happening; you wonder why," Mr Roberts said.

The Age has obtained images of the 28-storey tower designed by prominent Melbourne architects Fender Katsalidis, which reveal the full scale of the \$200 million project. The building proposed by Sheikh Mubarak Abdulla al-Mubarak al-Sabah includes an observation deck, hotel and large retail precinct opposite Station Pier.

But the scheme would require Planning Minister Justin Madden to overturn a three-level height limit introduced by the Bracks government in 2000.

A senior government source said the sheikh's development company in Melbourne had received a "nod and a wink" that approval would be granted by the Department of Planning....

..... But Mr Roberts from the South Port Progress Association said the status of the development was "closeted" from public view. "It looks as though they are keeping it under wraps until after the election.

"We just think it is totally unsuited to the area. It looks like a bit of the Gold Coast coming to Melbourne," Mr Roberts said....."

<http://m.theage.com.au/victoria/sheikh-rattles-role-of-planning-secrecy-20101017-16p4k.html>

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## SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



### Melbourne will be a better city if residents have a say in planning: report

**Monday, 18 October 2010**

The Age

Jason Dowling

October 18, 2010 - 12:17PM

"Give residents a say in planning and Melbourne will be a better city for it.

That is the conclusion of a new report released today that will make welcome reading to many Melbourne residents feeling disconnected from current planning decisions.

The report by the Grattan Institute looked at eight successful global cities that were "reasonably comparable" to Australian cities and concluded "residents must be involved in decisions".

"Those cities that made tough choices and saw them through had early, genuine, sophisticated and deep public engagement. This level of engagement is an order of magnitude different from what happens in Australia today,"

the report found.

An increase in ministerial planning interventions and delays at Victoria's planning tribunal and at council level has led to calls from community groups and industry for reform of Victoria's planning process.....

....Municipal Association of Victoria president Bill McArthur said involving local communities in planning decisions made implementation easier.....”

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/melbourne-will-be-a-better-city-if-residents-have-a-say-in-planning-report-20101018-16pvz.html>

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## SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



### Baillieu pledges to limit city's high-density zones

**Tuesday, 26 October 2010**

The Age

Paul Austin

October 25, 2010 - 3:00AM

“TED Baillieu is seeking to paint himself as the saviour of Melbourne's heritage, pledging to halt what he calls "Labor's wrecking ball approach" to planning in the city and suburbs if he wins next month's state election.

In a bid to exploit fears that over-development is destroying the character of the city, the Opposition Leader will today unveil a planning blueprint that would declare large parts of Melbourne off-limits to high-density living.

Under the policy, contentious new laws that allow for high-rise residential blocks along major tram, train and bus routes across Melbourne would be scrapped.....”

Residential and open-space areas outside the boundaries

would be designated as "no development" zones.

A Coalition government would also:

- Set up a state register of significant public land - including the city's major parks as well as open space along the banks of the Yarra and Maribyrnong rivers.....”

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/state-election-2010/baillieu-pledges-to-limit-citys-highdensity-zones-20101024-16z6v.html>

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## SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



### Planning unit out if opposition wins

Wednesday, 27 October 2010

The Age

Jason Dowling

October 27, 2010 - 3:00AM

“THE symbol and instrument of state government intervention in local council planning decisions - the government's "development facilitation unit" - would be scrapped under a coalition government.

The unit, announced by Premier John Brumby in the middle of the global financial crisis in February 2009, has become the target of community angst over ministerial planning decisions that sideline local community consultation and appeal rights.

Opposition planning spokesman Matthew Guy said the facilitation unit would go under a Baillieu government.

He said Labor had been elected on a platform that opposed ministerial intervention in planning and "now provided

taxpayer funds to establish a unit dedicated to calling in projects" .....

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/state-election-2010/planning-unit-out-if-opposition-wins-20101026-172dt.html>

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## SAVE WILLIAMSTOWN



### Brumby's sleepless nights

**Thursday, 28 October 2010**

If the ALP believes in Community Consultation, then the electorate need to know that community opinion will count in Planning Matters in the next Government and stop the Planning Minister calling matters in on the request of developers without consulting local government and effected communities. The Government also needs to start listening to its local members of parliament.

The Age  
Paul Austin  
October 28, 2010 - 8:17AM

### Brumby's sleepless nights

“Attacked from left and right, being frontrunner is no bed of roses for the Premier.

So, how goes the state election campaign? Well, it hasn't even officially begun yet (the starter's gun is fired with the

issuing of the writs on, believe it or not, Melbourne Cup Day), but there are a few worrying signs for the frontrunner. For a start, John Brumby and some of his most senior ministers are making the sorts of misjudgments that might not matter most of the time but get magnified when an election is looming.....

.....That Justin Madden has transformed from an asset into a liability for Labor has been underscored by his inelegant efforts to dodge a pre-election debate with his Liberal shadow, Matthew Guy, on the hot-button issue of planning. Madden, like Brumby and Pike an 11-year cabinet veteran, has now agreed to a debate (on radio, not on TV), but his early reluctance to front was telling.....”

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/politics/brumbys-sleepless-nights-20101027-173qn.html>

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