
Media Release : Save Williamstown

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Save Williamstown to host a Public Funeral for Local Democracy

Save Williamstown (SW) will be holding a Public Funeral for Local Democracy at Commonwealth Reserve, Nelson Place, Williamstown from 12pm, Saturday 8 May 2010.

The Funeral is part of the wider campaign for the sustainable and appropriate development of the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site.

In part, the Funeral is a protest against Planning Minister Justin Madden's decision to unilaterally rezone the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill to residential, without community and stakeholder consultation, and to appoint an Advisory Committee for the site.

Further, the Funeral is also a recognition on the part of the SW campaign that it can no longer rely on local democratic structures to look after the community's interests. Local councils simply do not have this power in Victoria.

"We are moving to a new phase of the campaign.

"It's now up to the community directly to stand up and claim the right to its needs being met over the developers' wants.

"We need to make sure that local jobs and industry are protected, along with the historic identity of Williamstown.

"I'm confident the community can get a good outcome, especially with some of the stakeholders involved.

"It's a recognition that politicians are at their best when the people have the power." Stated SW spokesperson Godfrey Moase.

Highlights of the Funeral should include:

- A local community choir, Willin Wimmin, singing for the Funeral
- The chance for mourners to view Local Democracy lying in its coffin
- Bec & Seb, local musicians, playing at the Funeral
- A group of pallbearers interring the coffin at the historic Old Williamstown Morgue
- The Long & the Short of It playing at the wake at Pirates' Tavern

Organisers expect between 500 – 1 000 mourners to be in attendance.