

Progress Leader

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TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2005

\$1 incl. GST

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GOING
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“ We don't believe there was enough detail to make a considered assessment of the plan

— Mayor Jack Wegman



“ The department is going through its normal process . . . but (the council) has already jumped the gun

— Office of Planning Minister Rob Hulls



“ . . . if Walker was allowed to get on and deliver what we have promised, everyone would be extremely happy

— Developer Kevin Hunt

Bid to halt Kew plan

PETER ROLFE

BOROONDARA Council is seeking an injunction to stop the \$400 million redevelopment of the Kew Residential Services site.

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal will hear the case on Friday.

The State Government has vowed to push ahead with its plans for the 27ha site, saying the council has “jumped the gun” and interfered with due process.

The council lodged its VCAT challenge last Wednesday.

It wants to stop Planning Minister Robert Hulls from considering or approving the multi-million dollar plan for the site proposed by developer Walker Corporation.

Boroondara Mayor Jack Wegman said the plan did not comply with the council's planning guidelines.



- **CHALLENGE:** Boroondara Council is trying to block the Kew Residential Services plan
- **SEEKING:** The council wants more detail on the plan
- **HEARING:** VCAT will set a date for an injunction hearing

“We don't believe there was enough detail to make a considered assessment of the plan and as a result, we see the shortcomings as a quite inadequate plan,” Cr Wegman said. “We need to act in the best interests of the community.” Cr Wegman said the application did not detail new building heights, the number of buildings on the site or the potential traffic impact.

He said the site could have

anywhere between 350 and 1100 buildings on it.

A spokeswoman for Planning Minister Rob Hulls, Melissa Arch, said the sustainability and environment department would continue assessing the plan.

She said the council had interfered with a process in which it played a key role.

“They have jumped the gun. The department was consulting with the council . . . and the council hadn't even provided advice yet,” Ms Arch said.

“The department is going through its normal process . . . but (the council) has already jumped the gun.”

Kew Cottages Coalition president Brian Walsh said the plan needed close investigation.

“It's good to see the new council playing a few shots,” Mr Walsh said.

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Kew Cottages Coalition president Brian Walsh (right) with David Pym. N02PP307

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MPR: PDF100P33 ED: PPV PUB: PPV DATE: 26/7/05