



## Protesters slam secrecy over site

Between the Kew Cottages Coalition, the Kew Cottages Parents Association, and the Boroondara Residents Action Group, the voices of protest over the redevelopment of the prime 27-hectare site near the Yarra River have been loud and constant.

The protests have fired on different fronts — adequate care, decent facilities and accommodation choice for people with disabilities, the loss of ancient trees, the sale of government land to housing developers, the lack of consultation and discussion about that sale, and the building of medium-density housing on what the protesters believe should be public parkland.

Now, as the first buildings for the cottages' residents are under construction and the plans for the remainder of the housing are unveiled, the protesters remain unconvinced.

The president of the Kew Cottages Coalition, Brian Walsh, says the redevelopment of Kew has been shrouded in secrecy and badly handled by the State Government from the start. While he acknowledges the different protest groups have different aims and objectives, he says: "We are all united over one thing: the Government has never convinced any of us with the way they've gone about things."

**KATHERINE TOWNSEND**