



20110810 Media Release:- Heritage Watchdog to Investigate Kew Cottages Land Clearance.

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www.kew.org.au

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Brian Walsh, President of the Kew Cottages Coalition said today that the State Government watchdog, Heritage Victoria, had agreed to investigate what appeared to be unlawful clearance of the Public Land at Kew Cottages.

Mr. Walsh said that, "Aerial photographs provided online by nearmap.com showed that Tree Protection Fencing, trees, and other vegetation on the State Heritage listed Kew Cottages land appeared to have been trashed by bulldozers at some time between [6 April](#) and [28 June](#) this year.."

Mr. Walsh said that the timing of the Public Land clearance was significant, because permit applications to subdivide the Land along the Hutchinson Drive border of the Government owned site were lodged with Heritage Victoria in April, but the applications were not publicly advertised until July, and the permit applications have still not been approved.

"Trashing Tree Protection Fences and native vegetation like this on a Government owned State Heritage listed site makes the Baillieu Government look like cowboys," Mr. Walsh said.

""You do not put up Tree Protection Fences just so that someone can come along and knock them down - this not Legoland !" Mr. Walsh said.

"They have completely changed the heritage listed landscape," he said. (See copy of aerial photographs attached)

Background.

A Public Meeting held at Kew Civic Centre on 1 February 2011 welcomed the Baillieu Government's election promise regarding the remaining 15 hectares of Public land surrounding Kew Cottages, and called on the Premier of Victoria to:

1. Scrap the Government's Kew Cottages Redevelopment Contract with Walker Corporation. and
2. Impose an immediate moratorium on further Public Land sales by the Victorian Government at Kew Cottages.

The Meeting called on the Baillieu Government to:

1. Implement all of the Public Land Development Inquiry Recommendations on Kew Cottages
2. Implement all of the Ombudsman Kew Cottages Inquiry Recommendations
3. Register all the remaining Kew Cottages Public Land on the proposed Baillieu Government's new Register of Significant Public Land
4. Boost State Heritage Controls to address the significant regulatory failings identified by the Ombudsman's Kew Cottages Inquiry
5. Refocus Government attention on upgrading services on the State Heritage site for the intellectually disabled and the wider community.

Attachments:

Fig. 1. Copy of Nearmap.com Aerial photographs showing Vegetation and Tree Protection Fences before (April 2011) and after clearance (June 2011)

Links:

Nearmap.com , 6 April 28 June
www.kew.org.au/whatsnew

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