

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No: 1873
Asked by: Mr Hayes MP, Member for Southern Metropolitan
Directed to: Minister for Priority Precincts
Asked on: 18/03/2020

QUESTION:

To ask the Minister for Priority Precincts: In relation to Kew Cottages:

- (1) Is the Government now selling apartments at the Kew Cottages site 'off the plan', before all planning and heritage requirements have been complied with.
- (2) Is it correct that Development Victoria, the owner of the land, is yet to comply with a 2018 Heritage Council requirement for a Heritage Covenant on the Kew Cottages land.
- (3) After being advised by the Minister for Planning that the Government's Kew Cottages Development partner Walker Corporation's contract expires on 31 December 2020, what risk is there to potential buyers if the apartments are not completed by 31 December 2020.
- (4) Have potential buyers been fully informed of all potential risks involved in buying apartments off the plan in the Walker Corporation's Main Drive Kew estate.

REPLY:

I thank the member for Member for Southern Metropolitan for his question.

The Kew Residential Services redevelopment project commenced in 2006 and involves the redevelopment of the former Kew Cottages facility into a high-quality housing development. Kew Cottages was formerly a special development school and residential service located in Kew, opened in 1887.

The redevelopment integrates 20 community homes for former Kew Residential Services residents with intellectual disabilities, with 261 private dwellings. The project represents an important investment in the needs of people with a disability.

The former Kew Cottages heritage buildings represent an important part of Melbourne's history. The historical significance of these buildings is recognised in the Victorian Heritage Register and the City of Boroondara Planning Scheme heritage overlay which covers the entire site.

The project is delivered under a Development Agreement between the Victorian Government and Kew Development Corporation Pty Ltd (KDC) (a subsidiary of Walker Group Holdings).

I am advised that the exteriors of the three heritage buildings have been fully restored in accordance with the Heritage Permit issued by Heritage Victoria; and all works have been carried out in accordance with planning and heritage requirements.

Stage Nine, which is now being developed, features an apartment complex and is being delivered by KDC. Early works on the Apartments commenced this year.

Any request for an extension of the project term will be considered by Development Victoria in accordance with the conditions in the agreement.

All sales are being carried out in compliance with the relevant legal requirements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacinta Allan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Minister for Priority Precincts