



KEW COTTAGES COALITION Inc.
Reg # A0044698H

NEWSLETTER November 2014



KEW PUBLIC MEETING

7pm Thursday 6th November 2014

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Civic Centre

Cnr Cotham Road and Civic Drive, KEW - Melways Map 45 D6

KEW COTTAGES COALITION INC. presents
Kew Cottages and the Victorian State Election

**A 'Meet the Local Candidates'
Public Meeting**

Q & A on The Kew Cottages Development

**Invited Candidates*
For the Lower House Seat of Kew.**



Rod Quantock
- MC



James Gaffey
ALP



Tim Smith
Liberal



Lynn Franks
Greens

For the Upper House Southern Metro Region.



David Davis - Minister
for Health and Ageing



Georgie Crozier MLC
Liberal



Philip Dalidakis
ALP



Erik Locke
ALP



James Searle
Greens



Sue Pennicuk MLC
Greens



Rose Read
Greens

The next instalment in one of Melbourne's most contentious Major Projects.

ALL WELCOME !



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STOP PRESS - THE GOOD NEWS

Planning Minister blocks High Rise at Kew Cottages

Brian Walsh, President of the Kew Cottages Coalition, welcomed Planning Minister, Matthew Guy's 22 October decision to refuse Walker Corporation's latest Application for High Rise Development on land reserved as 'Public Open Space' at Kew Cottages.

Mr. Walsh said, "I understand that the Liberal's new Candidate for Kew, Tim Smith, has worked hard to help the Minister make this decision, and I would like to thank Tim for that."

I would also like to thank Boroondara Council for standing up to the Government over many years on this question of inappropriate development at Kew Cottages.. "

I understand, for example, that Boroondara Council are extremely concerned that unless further action is taken by the Minister for Planning, then Walker Corporation may still not even meet the Planning Scheme's minimum requirement for Public Open Space at Kew Cottages (i.e. 30%)."

The Kew Cottages Coalition shares Council's concern about the on going threat to Public Open Space", Mr. Walsh said, "And in thanking the Minister for Planning for his latest decision, I would like to respectfully request that he tells voters precisely what action he will take before the Election on 29 November to ensure that the Planning Scheme's Public Open Space requirement is properly enforced by his Department at Kew Cottages ?"

THE NOT SO GOOD NEWS

Colleen Lewis is right - 'Political Donations are Victoria's big secret (The Age 15/10/14) . And if Kew Cottages was in NSW, ICAC would be all over it.

In 2008, according to The Age, NSW-based Developer, Lang Walker, boasted that he could buy and sell any State Government (in Victoria's case it seemed to be for \$100,000) (<http://www.theage.com.au/national/with-strings-attached-20080706-32ns.html>).

Recent events at the Kew Cottages Development (KCD) suggest that even the Premier, who personally guaranteed that there would be no high-rise development at the site, can no longer be trusted , especially if large donations are involved.

Let's follow the money trail:

2006 - After a large donation to the Victorian ALP, Walker Corporation was awarded the \$400m KCD Contract.

2007 - After the Liberal chaired Upper House Public Land Development Inquiry into Kew Cottages threatened to subpoena Walker Corp, the Company donated \$300,000 to the Libs, and agreed to give evidence before the inquiry (<http://fadar.aec.gov.au>Returns/10/P2604.pdf>) – amazingly, Walker Executive, John Hughes, calmly told the inquiry he believed political donations did buy access.

2010 - Just two weeks before the Ombudsman reported to Parliament on the KCD Tender, Walker donated another \$100,000 to the Libs.

When the Liberals came to power in December 2010 they

promised to refer the Kew Contract to a new Anti Corruption Commission

2011 - However, a few weeks later after another \$100,000 Walker donation to the Libs – the Government saw no need to involve IBAC.

2014 - The revelation (ABC Radio, Jon Faine, 2/9/14) of the Liberal Government signing a new agreement with Walkers in June 2014 ..to assist the Developer to obtain all relevant Planning Permits and other Authorisations which are necessary or desirable .. to again build a high-rise at KCD is another sign of money well spent for Walkers.

Because, despite Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, recently knocking back plans for a five-storey apartment complex at KCD it appears that there is nothing to stop the developer from continuing to exploit this 'new Agreement' with the State Government. For example it now appears that after the Election because of the terms of the new Agreement:

1. Walker Corporation will no longer be required to restore the remaining Heritage Buildings;
2. Walker will no longer be required to rebuild the Rupert Hamer Recreation Centre; and indeed;
3. Instead, Walker will be encouraged to start submitting suitably amended High Rise Permit Applications to their new PPP 'Partner' - i.e. the new Government

And the new Planning Minister, whoever they may be, will find they too, like Mr. Guy, have been contracted to facilitate themselves to rezone designated Public Open Space for High-Rise Development in Kew, which is something even Eddie Obeid could only dream about.

There are now only two questions: When will developer donations be banned in Victoria, as they are banned in NSW ? And if this was NSW, when would the Kew Cottages Development be listed for an ICAC hearing?

Brian Walsh

CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The Kew Cottages Coalition asked each of the Invited Local Candidates to answer two questions by Thursday 25th October 2014

Q1. Do you oppose high rise development at Kew Cottages ?

Q2. Do you oppose Planning Approval being granted to build on the Kew Cottages land reserved for Public Open Space at the entrance to Yarra Bend Park.?

Kew Candidates	Q1. Do you oppose high rise development at Kew Cottages ?	Q2. Do you oppose Planning Approval being granted to build on the Kew Cottages land reserved for Public Open Space
ALP		
James Gaffey (Kew)	No Response	No Response
Phillip Dalidakis (Sth)	No Response	No Response
Erik Locke (Sth Metro)	No Response	No Response
Greens		
Sue Pennicuik (MLC)	Yes	Yes
Rose Read (Sth Metro)	Yes	Yes
James Searle (Sth Metro)	Yes	Yes
Liberal		
Tim Smith (Kew)	Yes	Yes
David Davis (MLC)	No Response	No Response
Georgie Crozier (MLC)	No Response	No Response

Link: <http://www.kew.org.au/whatsnew>

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