

**Caroline**

writes:

Posted on  
2 Aug 10 at 11:31am

I think that it's only time that something happened with the ugly, old Port Phillip Woollen Mill Site.

**Rosco**

writes:

Posted on  
2 Aug 10 at 11:02am

Take a look around Williamstown we want our heritage to remain. it has been a great place to grow up and raise children, there are not many places left that are so heritage proud so leave us alone please

**Mike Nicholls**

writes:

Posted on  
1 Aug 10 at 05:36pm

Most developers by nature seek to return maxim profits on their projects, this can only be achieved by overdevelopment, as can be seen in the case of the Port Phillip Woollen Mill site. They are not interested in sustainable development or the impact on our amenities only the bottom line monetary return to them and their investors. Thankfully we have dedicated residents that make up such groups as Save Williamstown, to represent the community and bringing into balance the of development in Williamstown.

**proud nimby**

writes:

Posted on  
1 Aug 10 at 09:13am

As a proud nimby, I ask, why should developers have access to our suburbs, our coasts, our heritage areas, our green wedges, and Marvelous Melbourne, for their own self-serving benefits, to make high rise housing and profits? The term "nimby" is being used in a derogatory way to silence the masses, but we need more people willing to take a stand against this political control. The Victorian government are firmly part of the property developing business, and we in Melbourne are supposed to shut-up and watch our lifestyles being eroded, our grasslands bulldozed, as well as our market garden areas, the

rising costs of a roof over our heads, all in the name of progress? Any addressing of climate change is simply tokenism and negated by more people and more concrete.

**Milda Malakunas**

writes:

Posted on  
30 Jul 10 at 08:28pm

Special, historic and so far - not destroyed by short term, developer's destruction. Don't let Williamstown go the way of Circular Key or Gold Coast!

Even though I live 10,000 miles away in London I care about this place and want to return and not find it ruined.

**Anne Maree Teasdale**

writes:

Posted on  
30 Jul 10 at 04:53pm

There are many places both in Australia (e.g.Fremantle) and of course Overseas where Heritage and Character are revered, and appropriately given precedence over the all consuming greed of developers who aspire only to short-sighted, money-grabbing goals. How will Williamstown fare in the eyes of the next generation?

**James**

writes:

Posted on  
30 Jul 10 at 12:12pm

It is a rare opportunity to develop a site of such significance, and the developer is being afforded much privilege. The former Port Phillip Woollen Mills site at Nelson Place has an industrial history, a colonial history, and an indigenous history as a place of ceremony. Truly progressive urban design could enhance this heritage and provide a precinct that is sensitive to the cultural needs of this community. Further, any new development that is not sensitive to the environment today will only have to be refitted or replaced tomorrow - what will the next generation think of us?

**Val**

writes:

Posted on  
30 Jul 10 at 11:32am

On the other hand, a large part of the planning problem IS the State Govt. So maybe the Feds should buy the land. Just a thought

### **Val**

writes:

Posted on  
30 Jul 10 at 10:44am

Our submissions to the Planning Advisory Panel must not include comments about the new zoning for the site. Nevertheless, I would love this site to be MIXED use comprising low level housing (3 storey maximum) and arts/specialist food/commercial activities. YES, let the State Govt purchase the site. Then Williamstown has a chance to have the best of both worlds, reasonable housing development and activities that will attract tourists to the area.

I wonder if the supporters of a 46.5 meter tower would like to live right next to it. Maybe they would change their minds about the liveability of Williamstown should that occur.

### **James**

writes:

Posted on  
29 Jul 10 at 10:18pm

It is a rare opportunity to develop a site of such significance, and the developer is being afforded much privilege. The former Port Phillip Woollen Mills site at Nelson Place has an industrial history, a colonial history, and an indigenous history as a place of ceremony. Truly progressive urban design could enhance this heritage and provide a precinct that is sensitive to the cultural needs of this community. Further, any new development that is not sensitive to the environment today will only have to be refitted or replaced tomorrow - what will the next generation think of us?

### **Charmian**

writes:

Posted on  
29 Jul 10 at 06:06pm

The PR machine in the names of Kate, Marisa, Rosetta and Karen are obviously hard at work writing letters.... Could be described at PR Stuntees....

**Kate**

writes:

Posted on  
29 Jul 10 at 12:21pm

I just don't get how developing this part of town is destroying character. It's not exactly cottages and wisteria. I rang the developer. I asked questions. I don't love everything they said, but overall I felt it was a reasonable approach. Do you really think anyone is going to build little character cottages on this land? It's going to have high density development on it at some point--just read Melbourne 2030 or whatever they call it these days. In this development, I like that the higher buildings will be away from the street edges. And Godfrey, the prices of housing in MEL is a red herring. Would the community welcome a high-rise of cheap, prefab apartments for \$250k? We'd all be screaming 'there goes the neighbourhood!'

**louise**

writes:

Posted on  
29 Jul 10 at 09:23am

Williamstown is changing so rapidly and these changes are not in keeping with the heritage of such a beautiful suburb. Let's leave it alone or reconsider the proposed development!

**Jackie Hosking**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 09:28pm

I strongly object to Mr Ashley Williams' comments that "There's obviously a group of community members that is very opposed to any development, and .. another group that recognises that development should occur and that the site needs something to happen on it. And generally Williamstown has been a place where anti-development has been a stronger voice than progress." If he is talking about the Save Williamstown group, then it goes to show how little he understands Williamstown at all. Save Williamstown is not battling development or progress. On the contrary, they are keen for appropriate progress, and accept the need for more housing - as long as it is environmentally sustainable, and in keeping with Williamstown's heritage significance. How does Mr Williams propose to provide parking (both at home, and at the shops!) for the extra 1000 residents he plans to house opposite

BAE? Where will the BAE employees park? Where will the tourists park? Traffic past the 3 primary schools in Williamstown will vastly increase. These are just a couple of the issues Mr Williams, and his partner Mr Ron Walker need to address.

**sue myers**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 05:37pm

As a one time resident I think that it is appalling that this development even made it to the table! It is so totally at odds with the feel of the area and would destroy the very thing that gives Williamstown its character. And further more Williamstown roads would not cope with the added traffic, can you imagine it would be like a hot summers day every day- the place would be grid locked.

**louis**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 05:17pm

its hard enough gettin round willi on a nice day, nelson place the beach etc are packed to the brim. and we want more? you gotta be jokin...

**Godfrey**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 04:13pm

To Marisa - I'm in my 20s too and I'd struggle to buy a house (anywhere regardless of Williamstown) but with apartments starting from 500K I don't think this development would change that.

**Rosetta**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 02:10pm

I'm ever so sick of winging Nimby's!!!! I would love to live there!

**Charmian**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 01:40pm

The eminent historian Geoffrey Blainey described this area: "I think the strip of land close to Point Gellibrand is probably more central to Victorian history than any other strip of land I can think of. It's significance is perhaps second only to Sydney's Circular Quay in terms of Australian history since white settlement" The difference is that Williamstown still retains much true history whereas the developers have extracted their dollars many fold from Circular Quay and that makes respect for the heritage of Williamstown incredibly important nationally. Save Williamstown as stated on it's website is not anti-development BUT developers need to fully respect the land they seek to trespass on. Maybe the government needs to compulsorily purchase this land to protect the heritage. Pay Ron Walker like those near the Footscray railway line!!

### **Mary**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 01:20pm

The developers comments about Save Williamstown engaging in PR stunts shows how out of touch he is. If his proposal goes ahead, then Democracy is DEAD. Only 2% of Williamstown is in favour of the 46.5 Metre towers which will make Mega \$\$ for Ron Walker, Ashley Williams, Noel O'Brien and his family. Madden's decision to change the land to residential has already handed them \$40Million == make no mistake this whole "PR" campaign by Ashley Williams and the Facebook PR Lady Suzanne Northey is all about PERSONAL DOLLARS gains and cares nothing for Williamstown's Community. If it ws in Sydney they would be thinking again because there developers have to pay infrastructure taxes on development of up to \$25,000 per bedroom. But that is called selling your soul.... Victoria and Hobsons Bay are not collecting such taxes to offset the damage this development would do and the Dollars for the Developer are so great that they will turn every political corner to get their own way. STAND UP & FIGHT Williamstown to protect heritage, local jobs and community infrastructure.

### **Suzanne and Duncan**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 01:00pm

A few facts about this development (info from Developer's application): The development will - add 10% to the Williamstown Neighbourhood population. -

supply 412 dwellings (with 10% "yield") = over 450 dwellings - increase housing...for the rich. Average price for development is \$800K approx. with fewer than 20% of all dwellings selling for less than \$450K. 3 Storey Townhouse range \$800K to \$1.4M. Apartments \$500K to \$1.25M. - Add about 700 - 1000 extra cars, and - add 2718 vehicle movements per day (according to GTA Consultants for Evolve)

**Marisa Lo Bello**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 12:57pm

I'm in my 20's and would love to live in Williamstown but everything is too pricey! Hopefully this development will give me a chance to live near mum and dad.

**Karen Whitten**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 12:27pm

It amazes me the arrogance of the people of Williamstown. Why doo they think they are so different from anywhere else in Melbourne. Come on, grow up, we need more housing and the site that is being talked about ois an eyesore.

I love Williamstown and would love to live there and I hope the developers succeed.

**Stuart Moysey**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 10:56am

I agree will Rosemary Geard, its set a dangerous precedent for other developments in historic towns, can you imagine the out cry if the decided to develop flagstaff gardens with apartments? Or, if they chose to pull down Werribee mansion? i am all for develop of existing areas to make them more accessible to the wider community, but unfortunately, apartments isn't what Williamstown needs.

**Jodie**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 10:24am

I have lived in Williamstown all my life and am also an active participant in the Save Williamstown campaign. I am appalled at this uninformed and one sided opinion from the developer with regards to what the Save Williamstown campaign is all about. Not once has the Save Williamstown campaign indicated that they wish for the site to remain as it is.

My personal feeling is that it should be zoned MIXED USE to allow the development of the land for both residential and light industrial use. Further to this I believe that the current infrastructure, schools, transport and parking will be negatively affected by this massive tower.

Williamstown can not sustain the estimated 10% increase of the population on the one site. The height restrictions of Hobsons Bay are maximum 3 stories, and that should remain.

Mr Williams can you please stop assuming that you know what the people of the Save Williamstown Campaign want and just ask them!!

### **Andrew Kovach**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 07:35am

"The company also sent out community response forms to gauge public opinion"

I live right opposite the proposed development. I didn't get a form and I don't know anyone that did.

### **cherry anne chapman**

writes:

Posted on  
28 Jul 10 at 03:03am

i am 12,000 miles away in england,but still support save williamstown-why-it is such a historic,beautiful town,i have a lot of wonderful memories of willy,i WILL be returning one day & would like to be able to come back to "the old characteristic willy" not another so called modern town-i am not against progress,what i am against is the destruction of history...i dont see the town

being divided-what i do see is "the powers" taking over....please think very carefully of modernisation because once historical buildings have been DESTROYED we cant get them back!!!!

**Josie Daw**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 09:47pm

I have spoken to many people about this development over the past few months, not only residents but people that visit Williamstown as well. It is not only residents who do not want this style of development but many others as well. People from all over Melbourne visit Williamstown regularly for it's atmosphere, they walk around, they have fish and chips, they look at architecture that is unique because the village feel is largely intact. There are very few places like this in Oz, Fremantle in WA is one. I am happy to be labelled as anti--development if this type of development is proposed.

**Rosemary Geard**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 09:12pm

I don't understand why Justin Madden got involved with this issue in the first place or why he has added another couple of properties to the overlay at the last minute. It is very clear by the action taken that the people of Williamstown do not want these monstrosities. I would like to ask Justin Madden if he is going to do something about the already overloaded infrastucture in this area. Williamstown is clearly struggling to cope with the people already housed here. The roads are jam packed, the schools & kinda's are beyond bursting point & it is impossible to get a car park, especially an all dayer if you work in the town. We simply do not have the facilities to cope with the extra people.

The developers can have as many meetings as they like, unless they are prepared to put in new roads, schools, kinda's & parking in the CBD of Williamstown they are wasting their time & money.

If this gets through I would just like to say to the rest of Victoria look out your town will be next. Help us to fight this injustice.

**Ann**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 09:02pm

Many members of the Williamstown community are against this proposal but support progress in developing out vibrant locality. This development goes completely against the character of our area in terms of its proposed scale and the use of that particular site. It would be extremely sad for Williamstown if it went ahead

**stephen vella**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 08:13pm

There is no doubt in my mind that the nelson place villiage in its current configuration is not welcome. There is no division in this household.

**Robert Harsley**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 08:03pm

I think that it is totally unfair and somewhat biased to call our opposition to this development "its past PR stunts". It is not and never has been a "stunt". We are simply trying to bring to the attention of people the totally untenable scope of this proposed development. What is next on the agenda? Another "Gold Coast" type of development? No thanks!

**NIna Kovach**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 07:57pm

Williamstown has a very unique feel about it when it comes to community living and a fabulous family atmosphere. This is a rare and precious gem that needs to be preserved. Most of us understand that progress in development is needed in a large city like MEL where land is at a premium. However there are surely other areas in MEL that should be further developed. Why ruin the current pleasant atmoshpere? Keep Willy in the style that befits the landscape and keep it the way it was originally intended. The infrastructure of the Hobson's Bay may not be able to cope with such an overdevelopment. I have seen this happen where I live now in the Kuringgai council area in SYD and it's very sad to see. Don't do it please!!!! We lvoe Willy the way it is and if we

ever move back to MEL then it would on be to this suburb!!

**Suzanne**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 07:51pm

A bit rich from Residents of Essendon, St Kilda and Richmond. Would you allow one development to add 10% to your population and add nearly 3000 car movements per day on your local streets?

**Owen Virtue**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 07:30pm

Who will be involved in these discussions with the community? What will the power of public opinion be? And will the conclusion of community consensus against the HIGH development, not development in Williamstown entirely, change the development? development irrespective of the Williamstown and Hobsons Bay community, natural heritage, views or roads capacity.

**Jessica**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 07:18pm

Building some apartment towers and town houses is not development. Main roads leaving Williamstown are already clogged during the times when most commuters are leaving for work and returning home, and as a student I can say that trains are not always a better- let alone faster option. Surely we need the infrastructure to support the increase in residents long before we consider building. That would be real 'progress'.

**Mohamed Jamal Ed-dine**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 07:14pm

I grew up in this are and have lived here for most of my life. The last thing I want to see is money hunger developers destroy our heritage and this suburb. No one is against development, it is the unsustainable environmentally damaging development that people are against.

**Danae French**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 07:09pm

I live in Townsville but my grandparents were born in Williamstown and have lived their whole lives there. My father was born there, and I still visit my extended family down there every year. I think to suggest that there are two camps, each at polar opposite ends of the scale is an oversimplification of the issues. Wanting to maintain the essence of an area, and build without destroying its character does not signify total opposition to progress. You can certainly be respectful of the place's history without having to allow it to fall apart. I, and others, are still keen for Williamstown to move forward, but it is such a beautiful city, rich in history and character, that it would be a travesty of justice to deviate too far from it's roots.

**Laura**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 07:06pm

"There's obviously a group of community members that is very opposed to any development, and there is another group that recognises that development should occur and that the site needs something to happen on it," he said.

Yes, Ashley Williams but that 'something' your referring to is not a bloody 46.5m tower! I have lived in Williamstown my whole life and this tower will RUIN what makes this town so wonderful. This is not St Kilda or Port Melbourne and we don't need to emulate those suburbs by creating god awful high rise apartment blocks. The bottom line for you is money, plain and simple...

**Linelle Gibson**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 07:00pm

Sorry Ashley 46.5 is just far too high. Very few people would object to a medium rise (maximum 3- 4 storeys) development. P\_articularly overlooking the Pt. Gellibrand coastal park.

There's development and then there's greed. Already all the local schools and

child care centres are chock a block full. The local streets and other infrastructure (parking, medical centres, etc) cannot cope with such a large development without having a very negative impact on the local amenity.

I feel confident that you know what the community's views are and they are largely if not entirely against the over development of this site.

**Godfrey Moase**

writes:

Posted on  
27 Jul 10 at 06:40pm

I would like to remind Mr Williams that the Save Williamstown campaign has been for the sustainable and appropriate development of the former Port Phillip Woollen Mill site.

So far our research indicates that the community is overwhelmingly opposed to Mr Williams' 46.5m proposal. There are two camps though - the community is one and Mr Williams is in another.