

SOS

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## SOS calls for Minister to close 'Dual-occupancy-by-stealth' planning loopholes



*The units as they were in July 04. Although everybody can plainly see that they are units, a private building surveyor "has no choice but to issue a building permit for a single dwelling... no matter what suspicions he may have had or questions he may have asked of the builder". What nonsensical regulations. Mr Hulls, please fix them.*

*By Ray Smith and Ian Wood*

**A** recent landmark judgement by VCAT may force a developer to demolish two units in Manningham, sending a strong message to developers tempted to bypass planning regulations.

The enforcement decision has reinforced demands from residents' planning group Save Our Suburbs for new Planning Minister Rob Hulls to close loopholes in state planning and building regulations that allow developers to build multiple units without planning permits.

In this case, the developer submitted plans for two large attached units on a normal suburban block in Doncaster.

The council and VCAT rejected the plans on neighbourhood character grounds, so amended plans were submitted for the same two units. Again, the matter went to appeal but VCAT directed the units be approved subject to further reduction of the building envelope.

However, only days before the second VCAT hearing, a private building surveyor granted a Building Permit for the original large units, but a new doorway between them meant they could be described as a single dwelling. This allowed the original development to proceed without requiring a planning permit.

Manningham Council complained to the previous Planning Minister who amended the state planning

regulations to prevent such units ever being subdivided, but this doesn't prevent them being built and occupied.

Principal objector and SOS Committee member Ray Smith said, "After the VCAT hearing, Member Rickards concluded that two dwellings were being constructed in contravention of the Planning Scheme and granted an enforcement order for them to be demolished or brought into compliance with local and state planning regulations".

Save our Suburbs supports the call from the Planning Institute Australia (Vic) for a complete overhaul of the planning and environment act. The Doncaster example clearly illustrates the need for harmonisation of the planning and building regulations. Something that was started, but left un-finished with Rescode.

It is Save our Suburbs policy that compliance with basic Rescode standards and local overlay requirements should be mandatory to improve planning outcomes, to improve certainty for all parties and to reduce the assessment workload of councils as well as the number of cases at VCAT.

This would remove much of the contentious exercise of discretion that, with very little productive gain, now occupies so much of the time of council and VCAT staff, permit applicants and objectors alike.

## President's Address

With a new S.O.S. committee and a new Minister for Planning, this year has started well.

On the John Faine radio program, the Chief Editor of

Leader Publications newspapers, Kate Ashley-Griffiths, acknowledged the growing influence of SOS and its ability to win improvements in planning policy when she referred to the recent attempt in Doncaster to build a dual occupancy by stealth (see leading article at left), explaining that the developer made the mistake of building in a street where a S.O.S. committee member lived.

SOS plans to continue to lobby for improvements in planning legislation via its role on the State Government's M2030 Implementation Reference Group and its subcommittees.

However, we've pointed out to the minister that it is not appropriate for planning forums such as this to operate in secret and that we are not prepared to participate if our representatives on these committees cannot discuss issues raised there within our own organisation.

*Nigel Kirby*



Go to our new web forum at:  
[www.saveoursuburbs.org.au](http://www.saveoursuburbs.org.au) where not only can you have your say, you can also ask for help and read about other peoples problems. Or email your story and photos to: Ray Smith, SOS Newsletter Coordinator,  
[newsletter@saveoursuburbs.org.au](mailto:newsletter@saveoursuburbs.org.au)  
 If you don't have Internet access, post your typed or hand-written letter to 13 Toronto Avenue, Doncaster 3108.  
 SOS reserves the right to edit contributions.

## VCAT explains

VCAT president, Justice Stuart Morris is advocating more efficient access to, and openness and accountability of VCAT, and has generously offered to answer reader's questions about VCAT. So, e-mail your questions about VCAT and your response to Justice Morris' explanations to <rb.smith@bigpond.net.au>.



Justice Stuart Morris

### Q. *The 60-day limit*

*One tactic that Developers use to frustrate Planning Departments is by abusing the 60-day limit within which Councils must give a decision as to whether a proposed development application should be approved or refused. Whilst we understand that it is a well-intentioned regulation to give reasonable time for a decision that has had proper examination, investigation and reporting of the proposal, wily developers can virtually bypass Planning Departments and thwart their best efforts by supplying a stream of vexatious changes to run down the 60-day 'clock' and attempt to use VCAT as a one-person Planning authority where they stand a much better chance if they have a questionable development, especially if they happen to get a Member who has a record of acquiescence to developers.*

*What safeguards can/does VCAT take to overcome this tactic?*

*M. Walton, Doncaster*

**A.** Clause 30 of the Planning and Environment Regulations 1998 provides that, except in the case of an application in respect of an extractive industry, the prescribed time for an appeal against failure to decide is 60 days. This time is extended by the time taken to advertise an application. And if there is a request for further information within 28 days of the application (which is common), the time does not commence to run until that information is received. Thus in the case of applications for substantial development, it is common for the applicant to have to wait four months before any appeal can be lodged. If a permit applicant seeks to amend

a development proposal whilst it is before a responsible authority, this may require further notification, particularly if the amendment is substantial. My experience is that applicants seek such amendments in an attempt to meet the concerns of objectors and to persuade the responsible authority to support the development. Of course, this is not always successful.

VCAT has recently introduced a protocol in relation to failure appeals to prevent premature appeals. This requires a table to be completed setting out relevant dates, to ensure that the required time has in fact expired. Some premature appeals have been struck out and the applicant

has been required to start again.

I fail to see how it is in any party's interest (or in VCAT's interest) to encourage failure appeals. The median time for VCAT to determine such appeals is longer than with refusal appeals. The permit applicant gains no advantage with a failure appeal compared with a refusal appeal. Hence if there is a practice along the lines of the question, it is misconceived.

VCAT does not allow parties to 'forum shop'. The allocation of members to cases is undertaken by the listings branch of VCAT, under the supervision of the deputy president.

*Stuart Morris*

*The latest data from VCAT seem to indicate that there may actually be advantages to developers in pursuing failure appeals. The next edition of Residents Voice will feature an analysis of the implications of VCAT data for the last three financial years, including the impact of Melbourne 2030.*

## News from Kingston By Janelle House, President 'Krammed' (Kingston Residents Against More Multi-Eyesore Development)

### Where oh where is Kingston's 'roof-top deck policy.'

Kingston Council has been promising for months to introduce specific local policy to deal with roof top decks.

There seems to be a proliferation of new developments which incorporate roof top decks. Unlike Bayside City Council, Kingston City Council has no specific local planning policy dealing with roof top decks to offer mandatory guidelines to developers or protection of privacy and noise-for abutting residents.

It appears Kingston City Council is dealing with such designs in an ad-hoc manner to the detriment to the amenity of our municipality. We have again written to the Mayor and Councillors and again asked that KCC consider introducing specific local policy to deal with roof top decks.

We also consider it necessary that this policy include specific provisions for noise attenuation measures. Not only is overlooking and loss of privacy a concern, but noise is also becoming problem for abutting residents when such design responses are sought.

Queensland Councils have specific policies to deal with roof-top decks and have recently introduced further policy to ensure that equipment such as furniture is secured to decks during strong winds. Considering the severe storms that our state has experienced and will probably continue to experience due to the greenhouse affect, it would seem appropriate to include equipment securing provisions.

*334-339 station street Chelsea update.*

### People made change happen, but where was our Mayor and Councillors

To all those 250 concerned residents who put pen to paper and objected to the first three-storey development in Chelsea proposed at 334-339 Station Street — well done. After a three-day hearing, VCAT rejected the application. Residents won! Now, hopefully our Mayor and Councillors will make all efforts to listen to our constituents and reflect their will to get acceptable height controls and to introduce policy to restrict development in Station Street to two-storeys, similar to that enjoyed along the West (beach) side of Nepean Highway. Such policy is currently being pursued by The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council in all of their 'Major' Activity Centres.



# The Implications for Residents of new Planning Legislation effective from May 23

By Ian Wood

The new Planning & Environment (General Amendment) Act 2004 (effective from May 23) makes changes to the existing Planning & Environment Act 1987 in line with the Government's "Better Decisions Faster" policy (which SOS has criticised as a bandaid approach).

The changes involve amendments to planning schemes, three-yearly reviews and audits of planning schemes. Also, of particular relevance to residents, the new processes include amending a permit application and amending a permit, as well as making it mandatory for VCAT and councils to consider the same factors in assessing permit applications.

**W**hile some of the changes reflect concerns expressed by SOS and echoed in part by the Whitney Report, they are unfortunately fairly minor. They also mostly involve yet more exercise of discretion on a case-by-case basis by council officers, guaranteeing further layers of complexity and uncertainty instead of the simple mandatory rules advocated by SOS.

The problem with discretion is simple — it takes longer and, unless the guidelines for exercising it are mandatory and very specific, the degree of discretion exercised in practice will be inconsistent, varying from officer to officer and from council to council. **Because of this, discretionary application of policy can conceal and even encourage incompetence (or worse, such as corruption).**

A classic example occurred recently when an application to extend the permit for Yarra's most controversial development, the "cheese grater" in Fitzroy, was rubber stamped under delegation without consultation with ward councillors or residents, and despite changes to the planning scheme since the permit was originally granted since the permit was originally granted that would have affected the proposal.

Yarra's planning director apologised publicly to furious councillors, saying that procedures would be implemented to stop it happening again. But there's always been a process for the discretionary approval of permit extensions — it just wasn't followed diligently in this case.

**The new changes** (with reference to P&E Act 1987)

**(A) Amendments to permit applications - new s50, s50A, s57A**

Under the old s50, councils could only amend an application before it was advertised. But now councils will also be able to amend an application (still with the agreement of the applicant) after notice of the application has been advertised to residents. The statutory 60-day clock starts again from when the application is amended.

This allows the developer to respond to objectors' concerns but residents won't be aware of any changes unless council decides they warrant re-notification (a discretionary action already exercised inconsistently at times), or a subsequent

consultation meeting is held, or residents regularly visit council offices to check on updates to the planning file.

**(B) Time limits on further information – new s54(1A, B, C), s54A, s54B**

In a long-overdue attempt to get developers to lodge complete applications, there will now be a time limit for applicants to reply to council requests for further information. On a case-by-case basis, a council must specify an appropriate time (at least 30 days) for provision of more details — another unfortunate extension of the exercise of discretion.

However, the big advantage for councils and residents is that if the extra information is not provided within the time specified, the application lapses and cannot be re-started.

*... in practice, the new provisions also involve more time-consuming exercise of discretion, are still subject to inconsistent exercise of that discretion by council officers and are still open to manipulation by developers*

If the extra information supplied is not sufficient, this process of requesting further information subject to a lapse date can be repeated. Alternatively, council could ask the applicant to apply for an extension of time prior to the lapse date, or better still, simply state in its initial request that the application will lapse if the full information is not provided in time.

If a developer requires more time and requests an extension but council refuses to grant it (more exercise of discretion!), council must give the developer 14 days to provide the extra information requested. During this time the applicant could appeal to VCAT

All this is supposed to put the onus on developers to provide an accurate and complete application at the outset, and will undoubtedly have some positive effect. But **in practice, the new provisions also involve more time-consuming exercise of discretion, are still subject to inconsistent exercise of that discretion by council officers and are still open to manipulation by developers.**

Firstly, it is clear from the experience of

SOS members that council planners don't always use the powers they currently have to rigorously scrutinise applications. Sometimes prior to advertising they accept clearly incorrect and incomplete information supplied by applicants in plans, site analyses, Rescode assessments, etc, without requiring any further details or modification. **The new provisions do nothing to address this discretionary problem.**

Secondly, SOS agrees that the request for extra information by council should still be appealable to protect developers against unreasonable or vexatious council demands. But in order to encourage developers to "get it right" before they lodge their application, it would be simpler and more effective for all parties if there was a fixed time limit of four weeks for developers to respond to council requests for more details. **That limit should not be open to appeal, just as councils can't extend the 28-day period for requesting further information** (without compromising their ability to set a lapse date or stop the assessment clock).

If the application is so lacking in detail that there are large amounts of extra information required which can't be provided in four weeks, the application is clearly substandard and should lapse. In fact, if the government really wanted to improve the standard of applications and speed up council decision times without increasing council workloads, it would remove the opportunity to provide further information altogether or at least allow councils to reject inadequate applications outright without appeal.

Thirdly, applicants can still appeal to VCAT against a council request for further information, but now they will also be able to appeal against the amount of time council sets for providing that information, or against a council decision to deny extra time to do so.

So while the new provisions will induce some developers to provide more complete applications, there will be more appealable steps in the assessment process. **That has the potential to generate more appeals, which is counter-productive to reducing ambit claim applications and procedural appeals and improving efficiency and planning outcomes.**

Fourthly, the pressure will now be on councils to get better organised despite the additional discretionary workload, because if they don't act within the

information, they can't even set a lapse date for the developer to comply with.

**While speeding up the process theoretically improves assessment efficiency and is no doubt what the government intends, in practice it is likely to lead to even less rigorous assessments as planners take shortcuts to meet deadlines and avoid further increases in failure appeals.**

If the state government keeps "bandaiding" planning legislation with more and more layers of complexity and discretionary decision-making, councils should either be given extra funding for more staff to handle the increased load, or be given extra time to deal with applications. Yet either approach is obviously inefficient and unsustainable so neither should be contemplated. The only practical alternative is to stop bandaiding the legislation and instead reform and simplify the whole P&E Act as many planning and legal professionals suggest.

The bottom line is that developers intending to abide by the relevant planning controls will lodge well-documented applications that won't even trigger the new provisions discussed above. All the extra legislative effort is really only necessary to control the more speculative and exploitative applications, so as long as new controls aren't mandatory these developers will continue to exploit every opportunity and every loophole available.

Consequently, if Premier Bracks is serious about stopping the ambit claim syndrome and improving both assessment efficiency and outcomes, he must be prepared to make more major changes and make them mandatory. Those changes should include allowing councils to reject seriously deficient applications outright without appeal, a fixed time limit without appeal for responses to council requests for further information, as well as mandatory Rescode amenity standards and local overlay controls.

Note that s149 is still available to challenge any action of a council but has greater legal implications and isn't open to the same capricious use as, for example, appeals against council failure to decide an application within time.

**(C) Amendments to permits — new Part 4 Division 1A (s72 to 76D)**

Requests to councils for "minor" amendments to permits under the old s73 meant that an amendment was not to change the effect of any condition required by VCAT or a referral authority (eg Melbourne Water, EPA, etc). It was also not to cause increased negative off-site impact or change the use for which the permit was issued.

If a proposed amendment didn't fit these criteria, the developer had to apply for a new permit (thus re-opening all the planning issues), or apply to VCAT for an amendment under s87 P&E Act 1987, which lists the grounds for cancelling or amending a permit.

Requests also used to be made under the old s62(3) which stated that council could approve amendments to plans, drawings or other documents approved under a permit if the changes were consistent with the planning scheme and the permit.

However, under the new s73(1) and s47 – s62 (with some changes), the old "minor amendment" provisions have been repealed and applications to amend a permit will now be treated as applications for a new permit (s47 specifies the requirements for a permit application and hasn't been changed).

An amendment application will only deal with the actual changes proposed by the developer and residents notified would be those likely to be adversely affected by these changes, not by the original permit. **So there will now be scope for complex and potentially controversial applications to amend permits but also a requirement to notify these changes to residents likely to suffer material detriment.** Previously, there was no requirement to advertise a request for a minor amendment of a permit nor to notify residents of council's decision – it was purely up to council to decide whether material detriment was involved (as already noted, a discretion already sometimes exercised inconsistently).

*... VCAT reforms to deter ambit claims should include a ban on further amendments to plans once an appeal is lodged. This would restrict VCAT to reviewing the integrity of council application assessment processes, not duplicating council's function by conducting de novo hearings on the full planning merits of each case.*

Under the new changes, even applications for major amendments to a permit can be dealt with by councils instead of going to VCAT. This might now include "retrospective permits", where residents find that a development isn't being built according to the planning permit, they or council take enforcement action, but the developer just lodges a VCAT application for a new permit to match what's been built.

Retrospective permits are a major bone of contention and **it remains to be seen whether dealing with the changes at council level rather than full de novo permit hearings at VCAT would produce fairer and more consistent outcomes** for residents in such cases.

**(D) Consistent Rules for VCAT and Councils – new s60(1) & (1A), s84B**

In a commonsense step, both VCAT and

councils will now have to consider the same matters, but the opportunity has been missed to respond to the key criticism by residents that VCAT doesn't give enough weight to local planning policies.. The new s60(1) requires that councils must now specifically consider the local planning scheme and the state objectives of planning in Victoria (including Melbourne 2030), as well as previous requirements to consider objections, environmental effects and referral authority comments. But it's still only optional "if the circumstances appear to so require" for councils to consider any relevant adopted local policy, strategy or State Environment Protection Policy.

For VCAT, the new s84B(1) means that in addition to previous requirements, the Tribunal must now "take into account" all matters the council was required to take into account in making its original decision on the application. But VCAT already had to consider state policies, local planning schemes and adopted amendments not yet approved by the Minister, so there are no new imperatives that enable or direct VCAT to give further weight to local policies.

This is the key issue the new changes should have addressed. **It is not appropriate for "one-size-fits-all" state policies on urban consolidation to take precedence over specific local policies incorporated into planning schemes with panel approval and Ministerial consent. Otherwise, there is no point in councils and their communities bothering to generate local policies.**

It is also nonsense for M2030 "policies" (little more than motherhood statements) to have much legislative force when most of the key parameters they are based on have not yet been specified! These include a metropolitan-wide, upgraded and fully integrated public transport system, which in turn should help to define the location and extent of activity centers, with their still-to-be determined boundaries, height limits and housing targets.

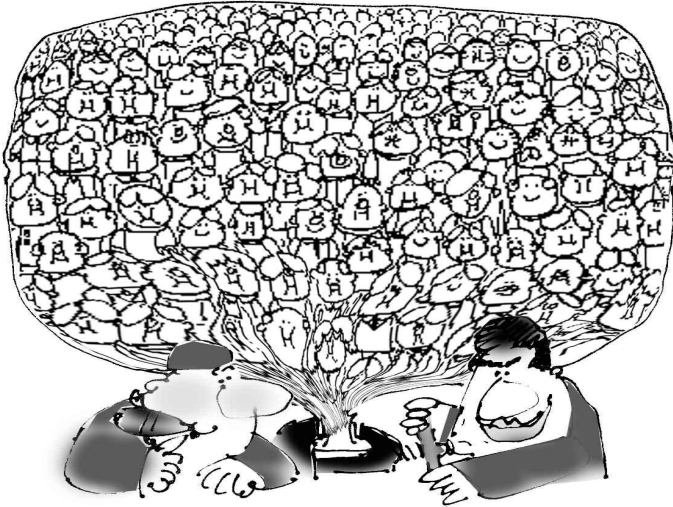
The fact that both VCAT and councils must now consider the same matters also strengthens the SOS argument that VCAT reforms to deter ambit claims should include a ban on further amendments to plans once an appeal is lodged. This would restrict VCAT to reviewing the integrity of council application assessment processes, not duplicating council's function by conducting de novo hearings on the full planning merits of each case. This change would support the efficacy of council processes by effectively auditing them on an ongoing basis, which will strengthen the integrity of the whole planning permit process.

*Further details are available from the DSE website: In particular, see DRAFT Advisory note - Changes to the planning permit process ( PDF 98 Kb)*

*NB: transition provisions will apply to applications already lodged and under assessment.*

# Power to the people? Perhaps

By Heinz Reitmeier, Langwarrin.



No doubt many Victorians are aware that the Victorian State Government's planning blueprint, Melbourne 2030, (M2030), proposes the so called "orderly" accommodation of another one million or so people over the next 25 years, largely in the Melbourne metropolitan area. We are also told by local, state and federal governments that this rapid population increase is required to keep our economy in good shape.

Many people are now sceptical, and rightly so, that this 33% increase in population will lead to a similar increase in basic infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads and public transport.

With large international corporations, (the ones that bought our banks, public transport, utilities, manufacturers, airlines, airports, seaports, etc.) telling our three tiers of government that we must increase our population by way of larger immigration intakes, who is actually in charge of providing, and who will actually pay for the increased amounts of infrastructure these one million new citizens will need? You guessed it, the current residents of our world famous, liveable city who really don't want a rapid mega-corporate driven population increase anyway.

Remember this, overseas owned, stock exchange listed companies only care about profits and shareholder dividends. They don't care if Melbourne becomes a third world city..

Imagine the outrage if an individual company were to propose a factory that would produce 33% more pollution, need 50% more power supply, more access roads, require more land clearing and the importation of large amounts of migrant workers, and then wanted us, the people whose city is being ruined, to foot the bill! Governments, environmentalists, unions, academics, the media, would tar and feather all those involved in the proposal!

Has there been an objective environmental impact study on what another one million people will do for our great city? The recent Port Phillip Bay channel deepening episode should serve as a sobering reminder as to what could have happened had an independent panel not told the proponents to go back to the drawing board. How about an independent panel hearing on M2030 itself?

Let's have a look at one small piece of the infrastructure puzzle, our future electricity demand and power generation capacity? Some figures from two official state government websites give some idea of our looming electricity-supply dilemma.

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*History will harshly judge  
Melbourne 2030 if its  
premises are not based  
upon what the people want.*

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The first website is maintained by the Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria, (SEAV), it states that our electricity consumption is increasing at the rate of two percent per annum. This means that by the year 2030 electricity consumption will increase by 50% (even more if you consider compounding factors). The SEAV website also tells us that peak demand is increasing by three percent per annum, equal to more than a 75% increase by the year 2030. To ensure supply equals demand power stations must be up-sized to accommodate this peak load that is experienced during hot weather, cold weather, weekday mornings industry start ups and public transport peak periods.

The second website maintained by the Department Of Infrastructure states that annual Victorian electricity consumption is about 40,000 gigawatt hours per annum. Approximately 48% is used by industry, 27% by private

housing, 22% by commercial and retail customers.

Given that coal and gas-fired power stations cost billions of dollars to build, many years to design and construct and that only a small percentage of our power needs will be able to be generated by renewable and sustainable means, by the year 2030, there is Buckley's chance that the proposed four-million Melbournians will have adequate supply.

Probably the biggest slap in the face comes from the SEAV website, it states, "Victorians will need to make decisions about where their energy is to come from". Really? Excuse us for thinking that these are the kind of long term decisions we expect politicians and bureaucrats to make on our behalf. In general Australia is decades behind European countries and the United States in terms of energy conservation legislation and true energy efficient building design regulations.

It is irresponsible for the government on the one hand to advocate massive population increases to "sustain" our economy yet on the other hand recognise that we have a looming power supply dilemma with no proposed or tested solutions.

It's yet another case of our government creating a scene that we don't want for which there is no believable solution — like the old riddle, "How many elephants can you get into a mini-minor". Answer "Four. Two in the front and two in the back".

It is becoming more and more evident that our political leaders are wrapped up in ideological arguments of how many people should live here and what sort of house they should live in, rather than the basic questions of how people will support themselves and their families, educate their children and where our energy will come from in the year 2030.

Somewhere around about the 1980s we were also sneakily subjected to infrastructure "rationing" in new housing estates when we only got footpaths on one side of the street, streets and nature strips became narrower, average block sizes went from about 700 or 800 sq/m to the current 500 sq/m which is considered normal, with a 300 sq/m unit block considered "medium density".

With not enough electricity supply and rapidly crumbling transmission network infrastructure, the electricity rationing and blackouts that must follow as a result of poor government policies will not be as easy to disguise.

History will harshly judge the "visionary" M2030 plan if its premises are not based upon what the people want.

# How to take the pane out of avoiding building regulations!

By Ray Smith, as told by Wendy Crooks, Doncaster

““Zee gone?” the glazier said to the developer.

“Yeah, about half an hour ago”

“Good, then I’ll get the figured glass into the new unit”

Let me explain the scene as told to me by a reliable source. This developer was building umpty-dozen units, all with the same plan — only different in the number and kind of columns at the front porch, two or four for the real upper-class and take your pick of Doric, Ionic or fifth column styles. And being just at the overlay limit — that’s jargon for a double-arms’ length from the next door neighbour and six metres above the ground, the overlooking windows had to have figured glass for a modicum of privacy when the windows were shut. Actually, the windows would have to be opened nearly all the time because the units were going to be hot-boxes in the summer time so figured glass wouldn’t have mattered. Besides, have you noticed that, these days, most windows open at the bottom. Figured glass is a well known easily-fixed way around ResCode B23 which is formulated to “limit... overlooking from windows”.

Back to the two-timing, two-storey story.



“Zee” was the building inspector whose job is to give the tick of approval declaring that all the conditions had been met, and he had done that. So within a nanosecond, the glazier had popped out the beading holding the figured glass and in went the plain glass, this time with permanent “putty”. A few minutes later the same figured glass panes were in one of the other cloned buildings that had yet to get the tick of approval.

The main problem is that ResCode B23 “limits overlooking from windows” rather than “prevent overlooking from windows”, and, let’s face it, dust on the window will, in a court of law, “limit” overlooking. So, technically, the developer is legally allowed to put clear glass in overlooking windows. And what happens if the new home owner puts his screwdriver through the pane when he’s hanging the curtains? Will he replace it with the more-expensive figured glass?

## Crashstats might help your VCAT case

By Ian Wood  
If the planning permit application you’re concerned about (particularly at the VCAT stage) involves traffic safety issues, then the ‘Crashstats’ database on the VicRoads website might be useful to show whether the street concerned is a frequent accident area that extra local traffic might make even more dangerous.

This could be the case if the new proposal involves a significant increase in the number of slow-moving vehicles attempting to access or leave the site from an accident-prone stretch of road, especially if there are local obstacles to visibility such as blind corners.

CrashStats is a database of Victorian Road Crash Statistics from 1987 onwards for crashes where at least one person was injured. All queries to the CrashStats database are performed remotely and the results are sent to your computer. You can specify criteria by which to search for accidents ranging from locations to the type of vehicles involved (including bicycles) and the characteristics of people involved.

The recommended browser is Internet Explorer version 5.5 or later. The results of the queries can be displayed in map or table form as pdf files. Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or newer is required for viewing and printing all reports, and printing maps and summaries. Download Acrobat Reader from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

To access Crashstats, go to the VicRoads web site, follow the link to Road Safety, click on the icon labeled ‘CrashStats’ and select the “Run CrashStats” link. Follow the instructions and good luck!

The web address is:  
<<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/vrne/vrnav.nsf/>> then click on “Statistics and Research”.

## Save Our Suburbs Committee

**President:** Nigel Kirby  
**Vice President:** Ian Wood  
**Secretary:** Ian Quick  
**Treasurer:** Joy Steward  
**Committee:** Ray Smith, Steve Whitmore, Ronnie Whitmore, Geoff Ronald, Sheryl O’Donnell, Richard Rozen, Cheryl Forge.

# Municipal

## Representatives

<b>Ballarat</b>	Greg Henderson	5331 3537
<b>Banyule</b>	Jane Crone	9457 1675
	Kirsten Burke	9435 2978
	Noel Withers	9435 4513
<b>Bayside</b>	Cheryl May	9596 1823
	Jocelyn Lee	9596 6835
<b>Boroondara</b>	Keryn Christos	9817 3755
	Adele Barrett	9836 0640
<b>Brimbank</b>	Marilyn Canet	9390 5788
<b>Geelong</b>	Judy & Bob Hutchinson	5278 7203
<b>Glen Eira</b>	Cheryl Forge	9509 6290
<b>Hobsons Bay</b>	David Moore	9397 5773
	Patsy Toop	9397 7666
	Roy Armstrong	9398 1594
<b>Kingston</b>	Janelle House	9772 4862
<b>Knox</b>	Jill Wright	9762 7632
	Greg & Gayle Mackenzie	9739 8585
<b>Manningham</b>	Rosa Miot	9842 1292
	Ray Smith	9848 1534
<b>Maribyrnong</b>	Alan Ross	9317 7732
<b>Moonee Valley</b>	Rick Clements	9337 5647
	Diane Adey	9379 4513
	Michael Gill	9379 9686
<b>Moreland</b>	Ronnie Whitmore	9380 1481
<b>Mornington Peninsula</b>	Arthur Moore	5975 6148
<b>Port Phillip</b>	Sheryl O’Donnell	9527 1075
<b>Stonnington</b>	Ann Reid	9572 3205
	Dianne Duck	9576 1492
	Tom Moloney	9510 3540
<b>Whitehorse</b>	Philip Warren-Smith	9898 6107
	Judy Sharples	9890 8038
<b>Yarra</b>	Ian Wood	9429 3581
<b>SOS Liaison Officer</b>	Ronnie Whitmore	9380 1481

Note: Municipal representatives needed in Darebin and Frankston. Please contact Ronnie Whitmore if you can help.

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Keep an eye on our website [www.saveoursuburbs.org.au](http://www.saveoursuburbs.org.au) as our new Secretary, Ian Quick, is revamping it to include a discussion forum — members will be able to have their say and discuss issues with other members.