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Dingley residents oppose Satterley development on former sandbelt golf course

The Premier has been accused of rubberstamping a 900 unit development on a former sandbelt golf course despite the project having 96 per cent opposition.

## Oscar Jaeger

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Plans to build 900 units on a former sandbelt golf course have been slammed by locals. Picture: Supplied

Plans to build 900 residential units on a former sandbelt golf course have been slammed by locals as a "ghetto" and "beyond our most horrific dreams".

Kingston City Council was sent confidential plans by the state government for the proposed residential building development at the former Kingswood Golf Course site on January 17.

The state government wanted <u>council feedback</u> on the plans by February 14, giving a time frame of less than a month despite mass protests from locals.

At the council's most recent meeting on February 3 developers said 900 units would be built on the block.

But 96 per cent of the approximately 10,500 Dingley Village residents have opposed the development according to former developer AustralianSuper — which had previously planned to build 800 units on the site.

AustralianSuper bought the <u>golf course</u> in September 2014 for \$125m and fought decade-long battle with residents before it was purchased by Perth-based Satterley in early 2024.



The masterplan from Australian Super's Dingley Village proposal.

Kevin Poulter's research, assisted by a former Kingswood Club Captain and others, shows there is half a billion litres of flood water not accounted for in the development.



An artists' impression of Kingswood Dingley Village from 2017.

Save Kingwood Group Inc president Kevin Poulter accused the state government of pushing ahead with the project despite the near-unanimous opposition from locals.

"Now Jacinta (Allan) has obviously rubber-stamped the worst development – beyond our most horrific dreams, a ghetto in Dingley Village," Mr Poulter said.

"It will destroy Dingley Village forever."

The proposed development would increase Dingley Village's population by nearly 25 per cent.

Significant housing developments worth more than \$50m in Melbourne could be streamlined and fast-tracked under the state government's housing statement which aimed to deliver more homes to Victorians.

Councillor Caroline White questioned how that many units would fit on the proposed land, predicting they would be 4m wide.

"To put this into perspective, the old workers cottages in places like Port Melbourne and Balaclava are six metres wide", Cr White said.

"Planning minister Sonya Kilkenny's department hasn't been particularly responsive to our requests for more information either. Given the unprecedented scale and impact to our area, it's only fair and reasonable that our community is properly consulted."



The site of the former Kingswood golf course.

Cr White called on Clarinda state Labor MP Meng Heang Tak and Isaacs federal Labor MP Mark Dreyfus to intervene.

Kingston City Mayor Georgina Oxley also drafted a formal letter to the state planning department, asking for more time to discuss with residents to offer preliminary feedback.

Satterley paid about \$215m for the rezoned site, and estimated it could generate more than \$350m in total lot sales.

Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club is now located in Frankston, 15 minutes from its former site.

Ms Kilkenny and Satterley's were approached for comment.