

## FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING

**DATE: Monday, September 15, 2003**

### **FINAL STAGE OF BEACON COVE ANNOUNCED**

The State Government has given planning approval for stage two of the Beacon Cove development and welcomed resident involvement in developing options for Princes Pier.

Planning Minister Mary Delahunty said final planning approval had been given after agreement was reached between the developer, Mirvac, the State Government and Port Phillip Council to proceed with the final stage, but without apartments on the old pier.

Ms Delahunty said that for safety reasons the State Government intended to truncate Princes Pier in consultation with the Heritage Council.

"Princes Pier is unsafe and a huge public liability. The community has shown it doesn't want apartments to be built on the pier, so truncating it and using the remaining space for sympathetic uses is the best option," she said.

"The community will be invited to say how the remainder of the pier should be used. Residents will also have the chance to have their say on the remaining housing and apartment plans," Ms Delahunty said.

The final stage of land-based development will include a 12-level apartment tower and some low-rise housing.

"More than 900 houses and apartments have been developed as part of the first stage of Beacon Cove bringing thousands of new residents to the area. Those residents and other members of the community can offer their opinions on the form and design of the towers," she said.

Ms Delahunty said that as part of the agreement the shoreline will continue west from the existing development.

"The shoreline in front of the final stage will be consistent with the existing foreshore," she said.

"This will create the opportunity to extend the waterfront pedestrian promenade, which currently runs between Station and Princes piers.

"The boardwalk can extend across the front of the entire development giving the public a great community asset."