

## **Developer's plan revived Jamie First**

A developer who was knocked back in a bid to build high rise apartments overlooking Yarra Bend Park is trying again.

After being turned down by former Planning Minister Matthew Guy last October, Walker Corporation has now applied to Heritage Victoria for approval to construct the Main Drive flats at the previous Kew Cottages site.

Kew Cottages Coalition president Brian Walsh said under normal circumstances it wouldn't make much sense to have a second crack.

"Why would you even bother applying for Heritage approval if you have already been refused planning approval by the Minister for Planning?" Mr Walsh said.

"Unless, perhaps the change of Government has something to do with it?"

The Walker Corporation declined to comment on the new application when contacted by Progress Leader last week

The Kew Cottages residential development is a public-private partnership (PPP) between Walker Corporation and the State Government-run Major Projects Victoria.

The Kew Cottages Coalition wrote to the Victorian Auditor-General's office last year requesting key financial information on the project, but was told the office's ability to scrutinise PPPs was constrained.

Acting Auditor-General Dr Peter Frost, in a letter to Mr Walsh, said legislation prevented him from compelling private entities working with public agencies to produce all information.

"At present, VAGO's ability to scrutinise the Kew Cottages development is limited," Dr Frost wrote.