

Social housing construction blitz

By Benjamin Millar

The state government's record \$5.3 billion spend on public housing will invest millions of dollars in Maribyrnong after it was declared one of the scheme's priority sites.

The 'Big Housing Build' will result in more than 12,000 new homes built across the state in the biggest public housing blitz on record.

Maribyrnong has been identified as one of 21 priority sites in the scheme, which is expected to support about 10,000 jobs each year over the next four years.

In announcing the spending last week, Premier Daniel Andrews said the investment would provide much needed housing for some of the state's most vulnerable people and "supercharge" Victoria's economic recovery through the pandemic and beyond.

"This package will boost our state's social housing supply by 10 per cent in just four years – providing a stable foundation for thousands of Victorians to build their lives," he said.

The program will deliver 9300 new social housing homes and a further 2900 new affordable and low-cost homes.

“ giving thousands of Victorians the security and stability of a home ”

- Daniel Andrews

Mr Andrews said a quarter of the funding would be spent in regional Victoria.

The new homes will meet 7-star energy efficiency standards, making them more comfortable during summer and winter, and

saving tenants money on power bills.

Mr Andrews said the unprecedented investment would generate an estimated \$6.7 billion in economic activity and support more than 18,000 jobs at its peak – with 10 per cent of the work on major projects to be done by apprentices, cadets and trainees.

"This will change lives – giving thousands of Victorians the security and stability of a home, and tens of thousands of Victorians a job," he said. "It's a profound investment in a stronger, fairer Victoria – a Victoria that recognises everyone deserves a place to call home."



Sacha Leonard and Fabrizio De Cesaris. (Joe Mastroianni). 222101_02

New spin on cocktail business

It's laundry delivered with a cherry on top.

A western suburbs bar and laundromat have teamed up to deliver freshly-laundered clothes together with cocktails.

Seddon's Lay Low Bar and Seagulls Laundromat say they will continue the inventive business cocktail, which was born of necessity during the COVID-19 crisis.

Seagulls owner Fabrizio De Cesaris started operating a laundry delivery service at the front of 93 Buckley Street with the bar at the rear.

"We've ... put a counter at Seddon so people can pick up and drop off their laundry,

ironing, dry cleaning at the front of ... the same premises that Lay Low Bar do their cocktails," he said. "We were doing the deliveries for Lay Low and Lay Low Bar would organise a Zoom cocktail party between three or four different households. Some of the customers would also engage us to do their laundry."

Lay Low owner Colin Wood said it was a "perfect match".

"We had the space at the front – we used to run a cafe in there and of course with COVID that was closed down," he said.

"What we started doing through the bar was

a lot of take-out and home delivery cocktails.

"So, the perfect match was Fab and his guys are out in vans all day delivering laundry and shirts ... He was looking to expand the business up into the northern and western suburbs and it all came together at the right time."

"You would get your shirts dropped off with your negroni or your espresso martini.

"Now, you can drop your laundry off, go for a cocktail, or have your laundry and your cocktails delivered."

Goya Dmytryshchak

Cash boost for foreshore upgrade

The state government has allocated \$4.4 million towards the revitalisation of the Altona foreshore in this year's budget.

The funds will be used for upgrades to the seawall and improved beach access.

In a joint statement, Hobsons Bay councillors Tony Briffa and Daria Kellander welcomed the cash boost.

"The \$4.4 million of state government funding for the Altona and Seaholme foreshore is an excellent outcome for Hobsons Bay," they said.

"This has been a key focus area of advocacy for many years and we thank the Victorian government for supporting the growing need to protect our residents, visitors and the regionally significant Altona Beach precinct from the effects of climate change.

"We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the state government through the delivery of this work, in particular with Parks Victoria, as they undertake the upgrade of the Altona Pier."

As reported by *Star Weekly* in July, Altona Pier will undergo a \$10 million redevelopment.

Three options for the new pier are:

- Replacing the pier to a similar layout and length;
- A new T-shaped pier head, providing more space for recreational activities such as fishing; and
- A new angled pier head (45 degrees) with shade and seating.

Parks Victoria will select a preferred design option later this year, which will be further refined through a detailed design process.

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