

Residents share concerns over Fortuna debacle

RESIDENTS living near Fortuna fear they will lose their legal right to object to future development if a zoning amendment is approved.

Owner Paul Banks' rezoning proposal has been referred to an independent panel, after one objection, with six signatories, noted concerns.

A representative for View Street residents said the objectors were not against development at Fortuna, but rather concerned about particular exemptions in the amendment.

The representative, who wished to remain anonymous, said the contract "gave the developer full rights".

"In the contract drawn up, we can make a comment to council, but we can't object or appeal any future development to VCAT," he said.

"The issue we have is that it removes our rights to say something at future stages.

"We don't have any issues with development at



In the contract we have no ability to object.

Representative

Fortuna, it's the other parcel of land that we're concerned about - and we just want to be able to have a say in regards to development (at View Street)."

Mr Banks is hopeful the issue can be resolved quickly.

"The minister is just waiting with his stamp to approve this," he said.

"We have been advised to implement this zone by the state government and the council, so even if it goes to the panel, I don't think the authorities will change their mind."

A further objection was listed but later withdrawn.

— EMMA-JAYNE SCHENK