

VCAAT

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Battle lines: Maroondah Council officer Quentin White, left, is removed from the Bonnie View Road site by Remington Homes' representative Paul Rintel in August 1999.

Illegal clear-felling to tribunal permitting units

IN 1999, the sub-contractor for Remington Homes, now also known as Pivotel, illegally clear-felled the 6070-square metre site at 3-9 Bonnie View in Croydon North.

In approving Pivotel's multi-unit development proposal, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal last month ordered no trees be removed from the site without proper approval.

In a bid to stop what they termed an overdevelopment of the site, residents submitted a dossier of evidence to VCAT.

It included articles dated from 1999, which had been published in the *Post*, now renamed the *Journal*.

The site is next to the biologically significant Warriën Reserve.

TIMELINE

In 1999, Maroondah Council had attempted to stop the developer clear-felling without a permit, but its directives were ignored.

In August 1999, the council's planning enforcement officer Quentin White was forcibly removed from the site by Remington Homes' representative Paul Rintel.

Mr Rintel summoned the police and reported Mr White for trespassing. When police arrived, they instead escorted Mr White back onto the site.

In 2001, Remington's sub-contractor G & L Tree Lopping was convicted and fined \$8500 for

illegal felling. In 2002, the council refused the developer's proposal for 16 two-storey units on the site.

In 2003, the developer lodged plans for an 18-unit development with the council. The council received 80 written objections to the proposal.

Simultaneously, the developer applied for an 11-lot subdivision.

The council advised the developer that the applications should be submitted separately but the developer asked that both applications be determined at the same time.

Both were refused and the developer went to VCAT.

VCAT senior member Anthony Liston last month determined that

an 11-lot subdivision was inconsistent with neighbourhood character.

He determined that 17 units would be in keeping with that same neighbourhood character.

"... It is my conclusion that a permit should be granted for the dwelling proposal, subject to the deletion of one dwelling."

He approved the development, subject to nine conditions.

Condition No. 8 reads: "No tree shall be felled, lopped, topped, ringbarked or otherwise destroyed or removed on any part of the site unless in accordance with an approved landscape plan or planning approval issued by the Responsible Authority."

