

DINGLEY VILLAGE

Golf course value 'irreplaceable'

Council keen to protect sites from rezoning, development

Emma Watson



Members of Save Kingswood at the Peninsula Kingswood Golf Club.

KINGSTON Council has issued a message to developers: hands off our golf courses.

The council said it wanted to protect the open space golf courses provided, regardless of the pressure caused by a booming population.

The unprecedented population growth across Melbourne is not a good enough reason to sell off or rezone golf courses, it said in a submission to the State Government's *Planning for Golf in Victoria* discussion paper.

The council said the landscape, space and amenity value delivered by golf courses was "irreplaceable" and it wants future education precincts, social housing and sports hubs to be built without "depriving communities of the benefit of golf courses, and of public and private open space."

The Government is working on a statewide plan to keep golf sustainable given the increasing pressure for some courses to be rezoned for housing. There are 11 courses in Kingston, mostly privately owned.

An application is currently before the council to rezone the Dingley Village site of the Peninsula Kingswood Golf Club to allow an 760-home development with bike paths and walking trails, wetlands and shared open space.

Councillors are likely to make a decision on the rezone of the land this year.

Save Kingswood secretary Kevin Poulter said he was pleased the council "recognises the community needs by stating they want to preserve the open space, amenity and landscape value provided by existing golf courses".

"A purchase by a developer ... should not destroy a community's amenity," Mr Poulter said.

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