

# Group to appeal for 'secret' triangle site documents

By Denise Mooney

UNCHAIN St Kilda is preparing a state planning tribunal appeal after Port Phillip Council refused to release documents relating to the St Kilda triangle redevelopment under freedom of information laws.

The protest group requested details of the council's agreement with developers Citta Property Group and the State Government, including the amount of rent – rumoured to be \$1 million a year – to be paid to the council for duration of the 99-year lease.

But the council knocked back the request, citing commercial-in-confidence restrictions. The Citta

Property-led consortium, backed by Babcock & Brown, could still appeal to VCAT if it is unhappy with the planning permit approval.

Serge Thomann from Unchain St Kilda said the council had two weeks from April 1 to review its decision, after which an appeal would be lodged with the planning tribunal.

"We believe the community has the right to know this information," he said.

"What have they got to hide? Why have they not released these agreements?" he said.

Mr Thomann said the documents the group requested had included the development agreement, relevant correspondence and independent reports

commissioned by the council in relation to the economic viability of the triangle development.

"These studies could be very damaging (for the developers), and they have never been released," he said.

"They've kept things very secretive."

The final development plan incorporating conditions imposed by the council at its planning meeting in February is due to be signed off next month by senior planning officers.

The council is still waiting on a response from the State Government over its request for public funding to pay for the \$15 million decontamination of the site.