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Moonee Valley Leader

Travancore tower gets nod

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The Travancore proposal.

A CONTROVERSIAL proposal for a 22-storey tower to be built on the old Lombards site has been given the green light despite strong opposition from residents.

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal gave the go ahead after Moonee Valley Council rejected the tower plan in February because of its height.

Flemington Association president John Dickie said Flemington and Travancore residents were disappointed the tower would be built in their neighbourhood.

But they vowed to continue to fight development in the area.

"Short of a miracle we weren't going to get what the community wanted its so disappointing," Mr Dickie said.

"The Flemington Association did everything in its power to do the best for the community and will keep working to stop assaults on our suburb by developers and Moonee Valley Council."

Debnay ward councillor Rose Iser said she was disappointed that the tribunal allowed the tower to be built outside an activity centre.

"I was frustrated to hear the member say that residents would view the building from a long way away and that he was unable to form the view that the tower will be unacceptable," Cr Iser said.

The tower is stage 2B of Bensons Property Groups Travancore on the Park development.

Bensons managing director Rick Curtis said he was happy with the outcome.

He said Bensons would consider including residential space in the tower as suggested by VCAT.

"We're clearly now looking at (residential) and looking forward to getting on with developing the site," Mr Curtis said.

The \$320 million development includes a nine-storey apartment building and retail space which was approved by the council in March.