NEWS

Body will deliver: minister

BY MEAGAN WEYMES

THE government has denied speculation that changes to VicUrban may mean estates like Aurora in North Epping will miss out on community infrastructure.

The VicUrban estate will be absorbed into a new body called the Urban Renewal Authority, which will have a focus on urban developments rather than greenfield sites.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy said work was under way at the authority to

speed up the release of land on the estate.

But Yan Yean MLA Danielle Green said the shift to the URA may leave the estate without basic community infrastructure.

Mr Guy said planned infrastructure would still go ahead. He dismissed Ms Green's speculation as "a scandalous lie". He said all signed contracts would be delivered and "those that haven't been signed will still be put in place".

Ms Green said she was not convinced as the URA Bill only stated that contracted infrastructure projects would go ahead. "It's all very well for someone to say that [infrastructure will go ahead], but the bill only talks about contracts and parts of this project are not under contract, so I don't think there is any legal position that protects that," she said.

Ms Green also criticised the lack of community consultation on the changes.

Aurora Community Association vicepresident Cara Horner said although land had been set aside for services such as schools and shops, she was concerned they might be sold as residential blocks.

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