

**Submission  
No 183**

**INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL, PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING**

**Name:** Mr Peter Evans

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To the Director of the Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing.

I have been a resident of Ivanhoe Estate for 25 years. This submission contains my experience of the Ivanhoe Estate community and how the proposed redevelopment of the estate has affected people within the community. It also contains my recommendations for how the maintenance of the Estate could be improved.

The Ivanhoe Estate is a close knit community. The residents share house keys and support each other when they have difficulties. The estate and the friendships I have within it are very important to me. I help to maintain the estates gardens and many of the residents see me as a source of support and come to me if they have difficulties. Once an elderly man had a fall in his apartment and I rang the ambulance so that he could go to hospital. During the six weeks he was in hospital I regularly visited him and offered him my support. I also help other residents to repair their homes.

The proposed redevelopment of the Ivanhoe Estate has had a strong impact on the Ivanhoe Estate community. I am particularly concerned with how the proposed redevelopment could impact elderly members of the estate. The elderly are very vulnerable and I am concerned that they will not cope with the redevelopment. The redevelopment is likely to result in the building of high rise apartments that may not be suitable for elderly residents. Many elderly residents have mobility issues and would not be able to travel up flights of stairs to reach their apartments. Having to rely on lifts could be a source of anxiety for them, because if the lifts break down they may not be able to reach their apartments. The elderly also have security concerns. The Ivanhoe Estate is currently a very safe community and many elderly residents are concerned that the redevelopment may result in an increase in crime within the community.

On a personal note, I have suffered from depression and other personal issues. The friendships I have within the estate and the work I do to help the estates residents has helped me to overcome these issues and I am worried that in the event of a redevelopment, that I will lose this community and may become unwell.

I believe that the Estate should not be redeveloped, but instead, focus should be placed on maintaining the estate for future generations. The estate is in need of repairs and painting. I contacted the Department of Housing many months ago and informed them of the maintenance that the estate needs, but they have not yet informed me as to whether they are going to carry out this maintenance. I found this lack of communication unsatisfactory and I believe that better communication between government and residents could lead to improvements in the maintenance of public housing estates.

Yours sincerely

Peter Evans.