

## Red Hill 'Ocean liner' townhouses go up after residents' agreement

The Canberra Times 3 October 2015 [Matthew Raggatt](#)

Construction has begun on a townhouse complex criticised for resembling an ocean liner in Red Hill after neighbouring residents agreed to a range of changes to the building plans.

The Borrowdale Street residents' association successfully pushed the ACT Planning and Land Authority to lower the heights of the four double-storey townhouses by up to half a metre and increase the number of privacy screens.

An application to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal lodged by the residents after [ACTPLA approved the earlier plans](#) was settled in January.

The association chairman David Templeman said residents had got the best outcome they could without a protracted legal battle, although not all problems had been solved.

"There's still going to be the ongoing concern about the occupancy of these units, especially residential impacts on the limited on-site street parking availability," he said.

Construction of the four dwellings, with a combined 15 bedrooms, includes the creation of eight garage spaces and one visitor car space on the block.

The townhouse at the front was agreed to be lowered by 40 centimetres, and the remaining three by 50 centimetres in the deal with ACTPLA earlier this year. Fixed metal privacy screens were also inserted into the plans for an upper floor bedroom for all the units, and for the upper floor studies.

Mr Templeman said there was no change to the footprint of the townhouses, but the side and rear boundary fences were raised about 40 centimetres and would now be 2.2 metres high.

He said construction began about three months ago and had been scheduled to be complete by Christmas. Ground level brickwork appeared complete on Friday, with the internal framework for the second storey of three of the townhouses also up.

In a submission last year the developer said the look of the development was representative of modern architecture. An ACTPLA delegate accepted government advice there was no pedestrian safety concerns connected with the lack of a footpath or the "insignificant" traffic increase the project would bring.