

Project sells \$11m of property in eight days

Ripples building

REBECCA TUCKER

RIPPLESIDE'S maritime village developer has sold the project's first \$11 million of real estate in eight days.

Developer Jim Ramsey yesterday said he hoped to finally begin construction of the \$80 million project before the end of the year.

The first eight days of selling the first stage off the plan had netted eight sales.

Stage one includes two buildings, to be constructed on each side of the project's pier, with 28 dwellings in total.

Their sales figures range between \$1 million and \$2.5 million.

Mr Ramsey said the demolition and clean-up works at the former shipyards site was recently completed and the walkway link from Rippleside to St Helens was almost ready to begin construction, ahead of schedule.

He said final architect designs were almost finalised.

Once stage one is sold, stage two would go on sale, he said, offer-

ing 56 dwellings priced from \$400,000.

The entire project includes 178 apartments and townhouses, a restaurant, foreshore walkway and a marina for 160 berths.

The state planning tribunal approved the project more than three years ago, in February 2005, after the Geelong council rejected it on the basis it did not fit with the area's design principles.

The tallest building, which, at 16.5 metres, is three metres above the suburb's height guidelines.

The project attracted widespread opposition from Rippleside residents who argued at the tribunal that their views across the bay would be lost.

The 18-month-long planning dispute came after Mr Ramsey was originally granted approval for a project in 2000, for 98 dwellings.

But Mr Ramsey in 2003 said the project was architecturally not viable.

He is now hopeful of seeing his development begin to take shape within months.



TRANSFORMATION: Project director Sam Ramsey and developer Jim Ramsey with a model of the Rippleside project.

Photo: PHILLIP STUBBS