

New suburb in Melbourne's west given the nod as winning bidder selected

The Age, Clay Lucas

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A consortium promising to build a new city on government-owned land in East Werribee has been selected as the preferred buyer of the 400-hectare triangle on the freeway to Geelong.

The proposed precinct is on the site of Victoria's former State Research Farm.



Fountains and boulevards were also part of the plans in their winning bid.

Australian Education City's plans for the site – backed by an advisory team including former premier John Brumby – incorporated soaring 50-level skyscrapers and employment clusters for high-tech industries.

It also featured a plan to involve Melbourne University – although when approached in August about the plan, a university spokesman said merely that it had been approached about the concept.



Werribee - but not as we know it. The Australian Education City consortium's winning plans included 50-level skyscrapers.

There is no rail link to the new city at this stage, despite the Werribee rail line running adjacent to it.

But more than \$70 million of publicly funded works – including construction of a full diamond interchange with the Princes Freeway and Sneydes Road – are included.

Finance Minister Robin Scott said the government would now undertake further due diligence before entering into a final contract.

"East Werribee would be a potentially significant investment in Melbourne's west and a boost for Victoria's economy," he said.

Investors Direct Financial Group, the company behind Australian Education City, welcomed its selection as preferred bidder. A spokesman for the company said it would now focus on the next phase of the "exciting project".

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