

# Sienna Mt Waverley housing development close to finishing

It started in the last millennium, had a rocky beginning and permits for this Mt Waverley housing development in a former quarry have been extended five times — but the end is finally in sight. Featuring its own waterfall, the results are spectacular.

A Mt Waverley housing development which started in the last millennium is finally about to be finished.

[Sienna Mt Waverley](#) recently had its permit extended for the fifth time at Monash Council — 20 years after it was first granted in January, 1999.

The estate off Highbury Rd will feature 118 homes when completed.



Sienna Mt Waverley in 2009 compared to 2019.

But the former disused quarry — which was used for the extraction of clay and rock for the production of bricks from the mid-1920s to the early 1990s — experienced a rocky start after being bought by family developer Chain Group in 1998.

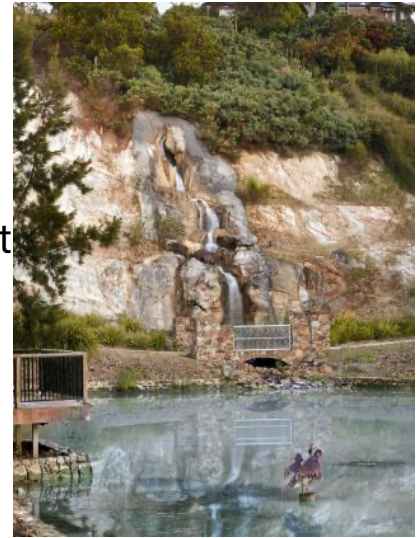
Originally called Sienna Falls, a retaining wall collapsed at the 7.3ha site during a storm in December 1999, leading to a lengthy delay in construction due to disputes about who should pay for the repair and neighbours fearing it would be left as '[a big hole in the ground](#)'.

Chain Group and building giant Boral Masonry sued the council and its surveyor, among other legal battles, which were not resolved until late 2005.

The first houses were sold in late 2007 and, in 2009, it won a

statewide architectural award for best residential development of 250 lots or fewer.

Chain Group marketing director Ashley Lewis said it was an amazing site and a development that his family was “really proud of”.



The waterfall at Sienna Mt Waverley.



A render of one of the newest houses to be built at Sienna Mt Waverley.

He said many of the early years were spent filling the quarry and doing the landscaping, which included its central feature of a waterfall sculpted into the northern cliff-face of the site, as well as the man-made lake surrounded by a reserve.

“That was done for \$10 million, which was quite a large cost at the time,” he said.

“The total is 118 double-storey free standing homes, all with garages, four bedrooms and private gardens.”



The expected interior of some of its newest houses.

With the end in sight, Mr Lewis said it was becoming “quite emotional” for the family.

“The site was originally purchased by my grandfather ... and he has since passed away before it was complete,” he said.

“We do have some mixed feelings about completing the project but we’re also really proud of what we’ve delivered here.”

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The council’s city development director, Peter Panagakos, said the “important” parts of the permit “would still be satisfactory” despite the 20-year difference.

With only 14 lakefront homes left to be built — “the feature homes

of the development" — they are expected to be finished by late next year. Its new display home will be open to the public from Friday.