



The Dome draws crowd at briefing

Planning | Danielle Crowe

MORE than 200 turned up to a public meeting last week to discuss the proposed \$8 million Coptic Diocese of Melbourne development in Donvale.

The meeting gave residents an opportunity to gather information and air concerns about the church's plans for a multi-purpose venue, function centre and sporting facility at 88-154 Park Rd.

The building, dubbed The Dome, will be the church's headquarters for Australia and New Zealand and will be built in three stages.

Church leader Bishop Anba Suriel said at the meeting that the congregation and the community needed the facilities.

"This is a family-friendly and community-focused development that will add value to the area and provide social and physical benefits," Bishop Suriel said.

But some residents expressed concerns about the size of the buildings and the impact the facility would have on the area.

Donvale Ratepayers Association president Kristian Tkatchenko said the proposed development would



A computer-generated image of the Donvale Coptic Church's development.

"destroy the quiet environment" and landscape of the area.

"This is a gross over-development at the doorstep of the sacred Green Wedge that will increase traffic and dominate the skyline," Mr Tkatchenko said.

In response to concerns, the church's traffic engineers will re-examine the impact the development could have on traffic in Heads Rd.

Residents who support the development said it would provide more facilities for

young people in the area. Warrandyte Basketball Association president Justin Nelson said the three new sports courts would address a major under-supply of basketball facilities in the area.



Will the Coptic Church's development be an asset to the area or ruin the neighbourhood character? Post your view on our website - manninghamleader.com.au