



A drone's-eye view of the Witchcliffe Eco-Village under development.

## Eco-Village buoyed by council's vote

### WARREN HATELY

Witchcliffe Eco-Village will continue to grow after councillors last week unanimously backed measures proposed on the grounds of affordable housing.

The WA Planning Commission will still need to sign off on the changes, which include allocation for smaller, more affordable lots along the eco-village's Bus-sell Highway boundary, taking the form of terrace housing and small-scale single homes.

Eco-Village developer Mike Hulme told the Times the six-ni

support for the amendments would allow further wishes for the site to flourish, including a potential small independent high school. "The dire shortage of affordable housing stock, to buy and particularly to rent, in the Margaret River region at the moment is having a terrible impact on the community," he said.

"Our objective with these affordable micro-clusters is to achieve single and two-bedroom homes under \$300,000 each, including house, land, solar, community garden, etc.

"My objective is to provide these for permanent residents, not transient workers, to ensure that they are long-term contributors to the eco-village community.

"We also have future eco-village residents who are interested in buying units as investments which would also enable some of these to be available for long-term rental."

Last week's decision included changes to allow building of holiday homes.

The residential aged site also increased in size.