

Protest groups blamed

Priced out of home

YOUNG families are being priced out of the suburbs they grew up in by resident protest groups, it has been claimed.

The influential Committee for Melbourne says planning activists are limiting options by blocking medium-density housing developments.

The lobby's chief executive, Andrew MacLeod, yesterday highlighted groups such as Save Our Suburbs and Planning Backlash as culprits.

"People say it's really unfortunate that my children can't buy their first home within this suburb," he said. "Well, it was the Save Our Suburbs and Planning Backlash people that objected to the low-cost housing developments that could have been your children's first home."

The patron of Planning Backlash is actor Geoffrey Rush, who protested against the redevelopment of Camberwell station.

Planning Backlash convener Mary Drost said Mr Macleod's comments made her blood boil.

John Masanauskas

urban affairs reporter

"Planning Backlash, a broad coalition of 200 groups, and Save Our Suburbs are determined to never give up trying to save the liveability of Melbourne and Victoria from the unrelenting greed of developers," she said.

Planning analyst Johnny Barnard would have preferred to raise his family in South Melbourne or Prahran, but he settled in Brunswick East because it was affordable.

"Even moving to North Carlton or North Fitzroy would be hard getting the size of block we've got," he said.

Jonathan Hallinan, from building firm BPM, said among his customers were inner bayside residents who were helping their children buy affordable apartments in the area.

"There's such need for this stock. The more that the property market goes up, the more is the need for the cheaper housing," he said.

masanauskasj@heraldsun.com.au