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Picture: ADAM ARMSTRONG

DRA-MATIC
Emily-Jade O'Keeffe gets all made up ahead of tonight's premiere of Cirque Du Soleil's Dralion at Docklands - and she's not even in the show.



Bricks & water

Hanna Mills

West to get new riverfront suburb

A new 3000-home suburb will be developed on the former defence site in Maribyrnong - and you've been invited to name it.

Just 10km from the city and bordered by the Maribyrnong River, the new suburb will create 7500 jobs, though work will not begin for at least three years.

Premier John Brumby said the

Victorian Government developer, Vic-Urban, would buy the land, which includes 3km of river frontage.

Milo Rasinac, of Nelson Alexander Essendon, said the \$1 billion development would boost median house prices in neighbouring suburbs.

"There will be an abundance of people who will pay a premium to

build a brand new house so close to the city and water, with transport at your doorstep," he said.

Thomson Real Estate agent Andrew Morello said the changing face of Melbourne's western suburbs would be further boosted by the new suburb.

"There is still a lack of quality properties in this area," he said.

"Maribyrnong was always considered western suburbs. Now they are paying more than a million dollars for waterfront properties."

Real Estate Institute of Victoria figures show Maribyrnong's median house price last year was \$676,000. Median prices on surrounding suburbs ranged from \$445,000 (Maid-

stone) to \$780,000 (Essendon) in 2008.

REIV chief Enzo Raimondo welcomed the news.

"Melbourne's population is expanding at 1800 people a week and the city has a real need for more housing - in particular there is a demand for more housing in established areas," he said.

The State Government said a competition would be held to name the new suburb, but was unsure if it would have its own postcode.

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