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Former AGCSA environmental agronomist **John Geary** (pictured) last week confirmed that work on the new **St Andrews Private Golf Club** development on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula has officially ceased. Geary, who departed the AGCSA late last year to become the project's construction superintendent, finished up at the site last week and says that all equipment and infrastructure is set to be sold off.



Work on the site slowed down in mid-March due to delays in getting a sufficient power supply to the site. However, come April, Geary was instructed by owner **Randall Shreeve** to lay off all staff with the exception of his assistant and all work shaping additional holes and grassing was to be put on hold. For the past month only Geary has been at the site in a caretaker capacity maintaining what work had already been completed before officially finishing up last Friday.

"It is extremely disappointing that it's all over before we really even started," Geary told The Cut. "I was led to believe that the owner had the money to fund the development, but it became clear that funding had become reliant on membership sales which weren't coming in."

The St Andrews Private development was being sold as an exclusive private members club with membership capped at 281. Targeting an exclusive high-end clientele, potential members needed to be 'wholesale or sophisticated investors' which The Corporations Act 2001 defines as those who have an annual income of over \$250k and/or net assets in excess of \$2.5million. Memberships reportedly started at \$98,000 with annual subs on top of that and it is believed that less than 20 had been sold since the project was launched.

At the time of work stopping, six greens (15, 16 and two of the course's three feature double greens - 14 and 17 and 1 and 13) and five tee complexes (14-18) had been shaped, with greens 14/17, 15 and 16 fumigated in preparation for hydroseeding. The tees complexes on 16, 15 and 17 had been solid turfed with Santa Ana, tee surrounds on 15, 16 and 17 had been hydroseeded and irrigation infrastructure including three storage tanks totalling 1.2ML and pump house had also been installed.

Since finishing up, Geary has taken on some part-time teaching at Chisholm TAFE and is currently looking for other opportunities in the industry.




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