

Metropol owner set to win the reality TV contest

By MICHELLE DRAPER

IT WAS a 12-week saga that ended in tears. After transforming part of the St Kilda railway station complex into an upmarket restaurant called Seven Stones before millions of television viewers, Peter Georgas and Tayissa Stel lost the fight to keep it this week.

Melbourne's polished reality TV couple was beaten by down-to-earth Perth pair Ash and Amanda on the Channel Seven show, My Restaurant Rules.

Appearing appalled that they were beaten by a restaurant serving fondue, they tearfully resolved that Melbourne had not seen the last of "Pete and Tay". A dis-

traught Georgas made several of the lengthy impassioned speeches for which he's become famous.

But the writing may have been on the wall a couple of weeks ago – or in this case, off the wall. Port Phillip Council officers demanded the removal of signs on the restaurant windows advertising My Restaurant Rules.

Executive director of city development Geoff Oulton said the occupiers had a permit to advertise the restaurant, but not the TV show.

The venue is part of the \$64 million Metropol project. As early as last Wednesday, Metropol owner R Corporation announced the restaurant was on the market.

All is not lost for Peter and Tayissa. The couple will walk away with \$75,000 in profits.

But it looks like the real winners will be R Corporation. CEO Andrew Rettig expects the highly publicised restaurant to fetch up to \$2.5 million.

Mayor Dick Gross said the planning permit for Seven Stones was rushed through at the end of last year and bypassed a requirement for a take-away component, given its location near public transport.

He said this requirement would need to be worked through with any new owner wishing to continue the premises as a restaurant.

