

High rise petition goes to council

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MORE than 3000 people have signed an online petition opposing high rise buildings proposed for Hobart's CBD.

Singaporean company the Fragrance Group has lodged development applications for a 126m, 400-room hotel in Davey St and an 83m, 479-room hotel in Collins St.

A group calling themselves Hobart Not Highrise began the online petition to call on the council to prevent over-size buildings obscuring views of the mountain from the waterfront, support current planning rules for building height limits in the city and re-

ject development applications for buildings that breach height limits.

The group has also requested the council hold a public meeting on the issue as the first step for residents to vote on it in a poll.

Group spokesman Brian Corr told the *Mercury* that of the 3445 signatories, 77 per cent were Tasmanians, 59 per cent of whom were from Greater Hobart and 38 per cent from with the Hobart municipality, based on the post-codes provided.

"The comments included in the petition clearly show people are outraged by these high rise proposals because they are

out of scale with Hobart and its surrounds," Mr Corr said.

"The community must have a say in proposals that would irrevocably change the future shape of our city. The petition meets the legislative threshold of at least 1000 electors to request that the council holds a public meeting."

The petition, which was presented to the council last night, will go to a council committee for consideration.

Also last night, the council voted to forward a petition relating to a controversial Dark Mofo performance to the State Government.

Austrian artist Hermann Nitsch plans to present his

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"performance ritual" *150.Action* — which involves a dead bull and 500 litres of blood — at Dark Mofo on June 17.

Last month, the council was presented with a petition started by Animal Liberation Tasmania and signed by 19,138 people calling on it to intervene and put a stop to Nitsch's performance.

The number of signatories that were from the Hobart area was called into question, but the petition was accepted as valid.

The council voted to continue to work with Dark Mofo to ensure all permits and licence conditions were met for the performance.