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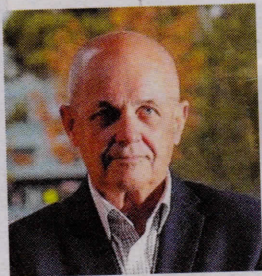
# Kangaroo Bay deal hijacked: Chipman

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CONTRACTS have been signed and money changed hands for the hospitality training and accommodation development at Kangaroo Bay, but Clarence Mayor Doug Chipman says the “once in a generation project” is being hijacked for political ends.

In an opinion piece in today’s *Mercury*, Ald Chipman says that although no appeal was lodged with the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal over the council’s decision to approve the \$50 million project, the 120-room hotel and TasTAFE tertiary-level hospitality training school development has become politicised.

A group of Bellerive resi-



Mayor Doug Chipman

dents have collected 1700 names on a petition outlining their concerns over the development’s proposed height and the lack of consultation over the project, and Greens member for Franklin Rosalie Woodruff has held a community meeting outlining concerns.

The petition has been submitted to Parliament but Ald Chipman says that many of those who signed it do not live at Bellerive.

“Many did not even live in Clarence and there were even a few petitioners from interstate,” he said. “It is disappointing that the planning issues associated with this wonderful development opportunity have been shamelessly exploited for political purposes by a party struggling to find a cause célèbre on the Eastern Shore with a state election looming.”

Despite opposition to the development, Ald Chipman said the council was still pushing for the first sod on the site to be turned in October.

“We have exchanged contracts and the developer has made a deposit,” he said.