

Query on cable car preferred status

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THE Hobart City Council will ask the State Government to explain why it did not make the Mt Wellington cable car proposal a Project of State Significance.

The council voted last night to draft a letter to Premier Will Hodgman and State Growth Minister Matthew Groom regarding the State Government's announcement in February that it would acquire land on kunanyi/Mt Wellington to get the controversial program off the ground.

Alderman Anna Reynolds' motion had originally proposed the letter would clarify facts about the council's previous dealings with the cable car proponent over any request for landowner consent from the council, the Government's failure to consult with Hobart as owner of the land before it announced the move in the media, and to explain the legal basis for the decision.

But Ald Tanya Denison lodged an amendment to ask the Government to clarify the area that it was to acquire and, at the request of Ald Eva Ruzicka, why the proposal was not judged by Co-ordinator General John Perry as a Project of State Significance.

Ald Reynolds was one of five aldermen who voted against the amendment but she said she was satisfied with what the letter would contain.

"I think what is important is the letter now sends a range of messages to the Government," she said. "We are putting our concerns on the record."

Hobart aldermen are to meet Mr Groom next month to hear about the State Government's plans to acquire land on the mountain.

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