

Planning concerns blocked by 'view'

IN November, at the Hobart City Council's annual general meeting, I represented residents worried about development approval given to replace one house with 10, three-bedroom dwellings. Our concern lay as much with the density of buildings on a small plot, as with the sole point of property access. We considered it dangerous for such a traffic increase. The steep drive is lower than Churchill Ave and driver visibility would seem re-

stricted by its position near trees, bends and a bus stop. Our concerns received little acknowledgment. I received this response from HCC: "Safety issues related to the design of vehicular access points are addressed through standards in the Road and Railways Assets Code and the Parking and Access Code. The recent development application was assessed against these standards and Council's Traffic Engineer was of the opinion the

access location would be safe". I understand this was based, wholly or partly, on data from the developer, not council officers. I imagine with such elusive rationale underlying decision-making, it will be difficult to counteract the Proposed Planning Scheme in Tasmania. Maybe this is, ironically, the real master plan: Tasmania, Land of Smoke and Mirrors.

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