

Built out

Mercury
2 August 2017

PASSING the buck is the latest party trick. As Rod Force discovered, local council did not protect us. We were even told by one councillor that ratepayers and petitioners should just get used to the fact that “density is in”. HCC councillors (except for a minority) simply claimed they had no power over Tasmanian Government planning laws. Peter Gutwein’s letter, in return to mine, emphasised he had no power to alter decisions of local council. So who is in charge? Greed I suspect.

Two other acquaintances of ours are just now fighting the same ugly painful battle we fought and, as they tell us, only just realising how completely futile and expensive and shocking this battle is, as the new Tasmanian planning laws are about to rob them of a pleasant place to live. A drastic reduction in the value of your property follows, that is, as one reader pointed out, if your present, newly built up property — overshadowed, overlooked, built up to boundary line et cetera) still retains any value at all for resale, no matter how keen you and your neighbours are to get out of there.

I urge all Tasmanians to consider this Government’s priorities before voting time. Be aware that you will have to fight this battle on your own. Council

protection is a fictional notion. You may put in as many representations and petitions as you like — all useless. Something vital has been stolen from you. Gutwein’s new Tasmanian planning laws dictate that you no longer have the right to “amenity” in Tasmania — that is, no right to a pleasant place to live.

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