

Mercury
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Think high-end and long-term

HAVING grown up in Tasmania, now living and working in Asia and wanting a state to come back to, be very careful about big investment from offshore in tourism. Mass tourism will ruin the brand, I've seen it. Yes, Asian tourism is where the future for now lies, but go high-end, small numbers not mass tourism. Big tours mean big buses clogging roads, people over-running sites, rubbish, special tourist-only shops etc, which need infrastructure the state has not got. Small boutique is the way to keep money and jobs in the state. Going large investment from offshore is where the money will end up, to the detriment of the local population. Short-term gain, long-term pain.

David Campbell
Hong Kong

There are still no airbridges, and nor will there be. Car parking at the airport remains inadequate and extortionately priced. People park down the road and wait for a call to proceed through to the rigidly policed pick-up lanes. And for infrastructure, car parking for people who work in the city is a nightmare. Not everyone can, or even wants, to walk or cycle long distances. Buses to and from the Northern Suburbs are not an option for some city workers. We have an ageing population and, in winter, howling gales and driving rain. Be practical, and fix this state first, including the failing health and especially mental-health systems.

Alex James
Bridgewater

living. Maybe it's time to put a clamp on the amount of people immigrating here until we get our country's infrastructure running ahead of requirements, instead of years behind and dropping further behind.

Robin Costain
South Arm

Keep us stable

I opened the *Mercury* to discover that both our major parties have set targets for population growth (*Mercury*, January 12). There goes the neighbourhood. Also there goes their chance of getting my vote, so who to vote for? The Greens? Nah, they wouldn't want to spoil their chance of a coalition with Labor, so I'll be looking at the rest in the forlorn hope of finding someone who will support keeping Tassie's population around half a million, which is probably a reasonable maximum for a state of our size and resources. This would also give our children and grandchildren a fighting chance of achieving the Aussie dream of owning a nice house, but don't hold your breath.

David Clark
Sandy Bay

Lift standards

HOW I wish I had participated in the surveys the *Mercury* has been writing about. I would have said forget about encouraging thousands of people to move here when we have problems with unemployment and worse, under-unemployment, and little appropriate adult education to address them. Jobs created are invariably short-term contracts, with no security. No influx of interstate people while there are people living on the streets. Make sure that everyone, especially the people trying to survive in grinding poverty, has a roof over their heads.

As for tourism, have you tried to fly out of Hobart recently? The departure lounge is untidy, uncomfortable and it is chaos. In reality, there are only two doors to go out to access aircraft. You can have a double queue at the doors, and people can easily finish up heading for the wrong aircraft.

Wowers

WOWSERISM is once again on the rise in Australia, particularly in Tasmania. Progressive wowers stridently say no to pokies, forestry, red awnings, salmon farms and any large building project, particularly if its backers include Chinese.

Evan Evans
Lindisfarne

Number concerns

THERE has been a lot of talk about housing and rental availability both here in Tasmania, and Australia. I wonder how much of this problem is caused by the immigration rate. It was reported that the average number of immigrants arriving in Australia since 2010 has been 200,000-250,000 per year. With this pressure on top of the existing rise due to childbirth, we have no hope of keeping up the infrastructure to maintain our way of

Necessities

SO "Hobart is a city of whingers" and should embrace development (Letters, January 8). Tasmanians are resisting moves by developers to destroy our unique environment, which attracts discerning visitors. We don't want the "many developments around Australia". Edward Abbey said: "Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit."

Yvonne Stark
Battery Point