

Lacking vision

THE Hot Topic headline "I'm going to be dwarfed" is unique and captures attention (Letters, November 30). It is a cri de coeur when a property owner finds that his home could be dwarfed by a proposed 75m high hotel, described as a project of significance for Hobart. Yet when reader Peter Black did his research, the adjacent land was zoned residential with height restrictions of 15m, as prescribed by the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme. That was just a year ago. He did not anticipate a change of regulations. If the hotel building was approved, he could lose his view as well as forever being in the shadow of the hotel.

It is an age-old David and Goliath story and a gift for the media, if not the owners. Do the planners of Hobart really want such scrutiny from the media and law courts? Does Hobart City Council want to defend the Interim Planning Scheme from appeals brought by community groups and property owners, like Peter Black?

In an ironic twist, many of the aldermen seem not to care. Why should they? After all, it is the ratepayers who will foot the bill (*Mercury*, November 30).

Over time, however, the community will all pay more because there is no comprehensive planning vision for Hobart.

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