

## **LOCAL VOICES MUST BE HEARD**

I DISAGREE with Brett Hall (Letters, *Mercury*, March 21). The vast silent majority need to consider being involved in local issues, if only to reverse the trend of inadequate consultation with the community.

We are a democratic society and democracy requires a well-informed public.

Clarence City Council's approval for a five-storey hospitality training school and apartments to be built along Cambridge Rd in Bellerive was never shown to the public before the application for the development was lodged on December 17, 2016, with a closing date of January 12, 2017.

The hospitality training school and apartments will form a continuous solid structure of 83 metres long with no breaks, 20.2 metres high, obscuring views of the bay, city and mountain, and did not meet the Clarence Interim Planning Scheme 2015 guidelines of a maximum of two storeys high with a six-metre setback for buildings along Cambridge Rd.

Council sought and was granted an urgent amendment to the Clarence Interim Planning Scheme 2015 on January 9, 2017, during the advertised period and prior to the January 12 closing date.

The amendment removed grounds for objections based on the allowable area for accommodation associated with the development of the Hospitality Training School.

Merc 2 April 2017 **Anna Chivers**  
**Bellerive**