

Planning a key issue

WAYNE Crawford's article ("Regime change puts heat on Libs", *Mercury* April 15), paints a more optimistic future for Labor, at least giving it a fighting chance in the upcoming election. However, the Labor Party has yet to release its policies on future planning for this state. Currently we are under the Liberals' state-wide planning scheme which not only gives all powers to Minister Peter Gutwein, but is also a fast-track system for developers. So, in the blink of an eye, our once beautiful state is changing into an "everywhere else". Green-field developments, loss of heritage, high rise and infill housing altering our living environs and special places forever. As the situation escalates and Tasmanians start to realise and raise objections about the loss of local character and the emergence of bland uniformity across their state, future planning for Tasmania will become an election issue. Let's hope that Labor recognises this and acts accordingly.

Chris Needham
Blackmans Bay