

Planning fears

SO the advertisement outlining "Urgent Amendments to the Hobart Interim Planning Scheme" (*Mercury*, November 18) really was urgent as the amendments took effect on the very same day. Such last-minute communication is a bizarre way of demonstrating the competency needed to make far-reaching planning decisions or revealing Hobart City Council's avowed aim "to achieve good quality development and urban management". In the council's eyes, I am sure this advertisement will tick the required box for community consultation and involvement. For me, however, there are danger signals in the unobtrusive word "rezone". What does it really mean,

for example, to rezone from "Environmental Living to General Residential" (UA11); to rezone an area from "Rural Living to Low Density Residential" (UA18); to "Delete a Heritage Place" (UA15); or to "Remove the Biodiversity Protection Area overlay" (UA6)? Great for developers, but what about everyone else?

Red lights flash when I read about amending "various provisions under clause 22.4.1, concerned with the Building Height in the Central Business zone" (UA14). Does that mean more upheaval or could there be a more considered solution? It's time to find out. Despite my limited understanding of the implications of rezoning, one thing is certain: my trust has gone. The Interim Planning Scheme has changed the goalposts by stealth.

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