

New scheme attacks ambience

CHRIS Needham (Letters, July 8) is spotted as to the disastrous Statewide Planning Scheme. The so called “faster, fairer, simpler” plan is tantamount to putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank. The building of two ugly double-storey units behind a pleasant New Town home has altered forever the ambience of the area. While it is understood that one doesn’t own a view, having tall, white, bland, concrete walls replacing a pretty garden and trees plus mountain and water views does not make for happy neighbours. All in all, Mr Gutwein, your new plan is only a good deal for developers.

Fay Thompson
New Town

Kangaroo Bay praise

AMID all the negative commentary regarding the proposed developments at Kangaroo Bay, Bellerive, I would like to congratulate the Clarence City Council for having the confidence and vision to implement a bold urban development plan which can only enhance our city and when completed, Clarence will be a city envied by others.

This project has been a well-publicised development, first mooted around 2008. Pictures and descriptions of the proposal surfaced in 2015 and a well-known real estate firm was appointed to call for expressions of interest from developers for uses including accommodation, tourism, apartments, retail, entertainment, hospitality and so on. It made front page news in the Eastern Shore’s monthly newspaper in April 2015, so all residents have been aware of the magnitude of the development for many years. Sketches of two of the proposals will make what was once an

ugly wasteland look fresh, vibrant and modern, something Clarence lacks. Other projects in the Kangaroo Bay development already completed are a world-class skate park, parklands play space, toilets and a barbecue area, and a new pavilion and sports ground, all a credit to the council. Revenue gained from Kangaroo Bay will be generous and should greatly benefit Clarence ratepayers handsomely. This project is far too important to be impeded by a small group with their own self interests. Well done Clarence City Council.

Ray Lane
Bellerive

Wisdom ignored

WITH all the comment about the problems of wind tunnels, blockage of views and sheer ugliness of the proposed new hotel towers, perhaps we should take heed of the view of Mr Fred Cook, recorded on a plaque opposite the T & G building on the corner of Murray and Collins streets. In his 1945 City of Hobart plan, when he commented on the newly erected building, he recommended that the height of the building “should not be exceeded in the central business district of Hobart”. Unfortunately the council has forgotten this wise counsel.

Vicki Harrison
Glenorchy

Heritage threat

SO the Minister is going to spend \$100,000 of taxpayers’ money on promoting his Statewide Planning scheme. A million dollars wouldn’t be enough, Minister. However, I expect that the Minister will be

fair and consistent and provide a similar amount to those who oppose the new scheme so that the public can make an informed decision on the full information. Issues like why there is no planning policy underpinning the Minister’s planning changes other than commercial imperatives. Why the Statewide Planning Scheme has such a heavy bias to developers? Why the basic planning principle of residential amenity is now not part of our planning system? Why the Minister has been selective as to what powers he gives to the independent Tasmanian Planning Commission in assessing his planning instruments? Why he sends some planning instruments to the Tasmanian Planning Commission for assessment and public consultation only after he has made them law? Why is the Minister determined to further contribute to the current traffic chaos in suburbs adjacent to the city centre by introducing open-slathe visitor accommodation and rules. Why the Minister is prepared to convert our heritage properties to investment properties without consultation, resulting in devastating long-term impacts.

Why the Minister will not explain why his new Statewide Planning Scheme is full of subjective and qualitative development standards which, of course, is totally inconsistent with his mantra of providing a more certain and cheaper planning system. Everybody knows that this approach simply leads to increased delays, appeals and costs. I can take comfort in the fact that the Minister has now sufficient financial resources to publicly address these concerns without having to revert to slogans.

Peter Pearce
Battery Point