

Plans for the future

THE Editorial "We need to be bigger and smarter" (*Mercury*, November 16) makes salient points in relation to Hobart's proposed high-rise developments and inner city housing density. It also points out that we, as citizens and caretakers of this beautiful city, have responsibility for its future. It says: "What we make today will create the future for our children."

Unfortunately, the proposed Statewide Planning Scheme and Interim Planning Schemes, which are already wreaking havoc, make little or no allowance for the community to be involved in the governance of future developments. Should the current proposal that Planning Minister Gutwein be given "carte blanche" over projects of state significance, such as the monstrous Singapore-type, mega-high-rise developments proposed, then all hope is lost. There will be no chance given to the Tasmanian community or their elected representatives, local councils, to be part of the decision-making.

We need to get this right. Hobart is a beautiful, special city where heritage values and our unique quiriness should be protected. It is vital the community remains part of the process for the inevitable development and change that will take place. We owe this to future generations. Once our cityscape becomes another high-rise urban jungle we have lost what we all hold dear.

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Chris Needham
Blackmans Bay