

## A beloved place

I WOULD like to pay high praise to Simon Bevilacqua for his astute take on Tasmania and its people (*Mercury*, July 29). I am a sixth-generation Tasmanian with a unique Tasmanian chocolate business that is adding to the Tasmanian brand that Simon talks about. I for one hear loud and clear on the Spirit of Tasmania and interstate at food events that I attend that Tasmania is the place to go to and I would like a dollar for every time I have heard "how come all the good stuff comes from Tassie?" You are spot on Simon that if the major political parties continue to ignore us intelligent Tasmanians, then the more minority voting there will be. It is time for us to have a real discussion about what sort of Tasmania we want. I have clear memories of working and playing football in Brisbane in 1981 and working with a plumber who had a contract on the Southport Hotel. The drive from Brisbane to the Gold Coast was through rural farmland, cattle and bush. Do it now, through development all the way, and see if you want that for Hobart to Huonville in say 30 years' time, how many people do we want here and do we want Steve Waugh, in his new role, to sell us to India?

*Mercury*

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