

# Distracted by height debate

I AGREE it is not as simple as just height (*Mercury*, November 16). Arguments about height limits in the CBD have distracted attention from other factors. While walking down Melville St, I was shocked to see the impact of the UTAS student building on the sightline towards the west. The view of Mt Wellington was blocked by both ends of the building. The students may have wonderful views of our mountain, but their benefit is at the expense of the public. There must be a balance between public and private spaces in central Hobart.

There are too many examples of private interests being satisfied at the expense of public enjoyment, like the apartments of Zero Davey and the Silos. UTAS joins the list of offenders, especially if it continues with its plan to move faculties and students to the CBD. The elevated STEM site on Melville St will block more sightlines, even if it satisfies the current height limit of 46m. The Performing Arts complex in Campbell St is on a lower site with less visual impact and complements existing buildings, notably Theatre Royal. Planning must be based on a range of factors, including height and site. The impact on the streetscape is also important.

*Mercury* 17 Nov '17 **Duncan How**  
Mt Stuart



PROFILE: Architects Jason Licht and Rachel Englund with the Elizabeth St mural.