

Heritage at risk

I AM aghast at the very long list of properties to be delisted by the Tasmanian Heritage Council (*Mercury*, November 14). The listed properties can now be demolished and replaced by cheap eyesores, with virtually no checks and balances under the proposed one-size-fits-all planning proposals. The fact so many of these properties are on adjacent blocks raises the strong suspicion the sites are to be opened up for development in the form of the construction of larger buildings, such as apartment blocks that are unlikely to blend with surroundings. We shall see a mish-mash of 21st century commercial structures with 19th and early 20th century

buildings of some considerable historical and aesthetic value.

The Tasmanian Heritage Council asked for submissions on the proposed delisting some time ago and I know there were many objections to many of the delistings, but clearly such submissions were a waste of time. The final list is even longer than the original. The THC seems to have lost the plot, or maybe they became too excited by the Hodgman Government's planning proposals. Perhaps the THC should be renamed the Tasmanian Council for Untrammelled Development.

John Biggs
Sandy Bay