

# Legacy should be wild mountain

THANK you for a timely editorial on the importance of appropriate development in our beautiful island state (*Mercury*, November 28). High rise and concrete is the legacy of Joh Bjelke-Petersen's unfettered development of the Gold Coast. The magnificent mountain wilderness on our doorstep is unique and precious. We should enhance opportunities for locals and visitors to enjoy its natural beauty through walking and biking tracks, signage and interpretation. An intrusive cable car with proposed substantial development of the pinnacle area would mar our mountain paradise forever.

**Anna Johnston  
Lenah Valley**

## Speak up

EVERYONE living in Hobart should read Charles Wooley's article (*TasWeekend*, November 25). It seems to me that, over the past few years, the only concern the State Government has is tourism, without any consideration for the people who live and work here. The big end of town wants to turn Hobart into a Disneyland for people to come and spend a few days, without concerns for the city or its people. We have no say or input and if any person voices their concerns, they are shut down.

Don't let us end up like some small European cities where life has become hell for their residents. We need to speak up before it's too late. I think we all accept we need tourism, but our city is what brings people here. Changing it without thought or reason and what do we have left? Those in control please think outside the box. Fragrance Group could build a wonderful hotel on the land behind the Derwent Entertainment Centre and add a concert hall

and use the DEC for all things sport. The hotel could be high, without opposition I would think, and a ferry could move guests into the city. Why are all the car dealers in the most expensive real estate in Hobart? They should be in the suburbs. The only public transport we have are buses. Most bus stops don't even provide a seat or shelter.

Over the past few months, I have seen two older ladies sitting on the pavement waiting for a bus. We deserve better than this. Ask the Federal Government for funding for a real transport system. Otherwise, we look forward to gridlock city. State and local government take note, your taxpayers and ratepayers are not happy, take time to listen, or you will not be here after the election.

**Suzanne Watkins  
Claremont**

## Don't take the credit

I NEARLY choked on my breakfast when I read Scott Bacon's comments (*Mercury*, November 28). Under the Giddings Labor-Green government, of which Mr Bacon was a member, Myer was a hole in the ground, the Royal Hobart Hospital had not begun construction and the Hedberg Centre was not able to begin construction due to a funding shortfall. All three are under way due to the action of the Hodgman majority Liberal Government, including providing a loan guarantee to facilitate construction of the new Myer. How Mr Bacon can then say the building boom in Tasmania as demonstrated by cranes in the sky is due to Labor is a joke, albeit not very funny.

**Nic Street MP  
Labor member for Franklin**

## Avoid Sir Joh path

THE excellent editorial brings back so many memories of life in Brisbane as a resident throughout the late 1970s and '80s and I can absolutely attest to the "Sir Joh" era as being one of highly controversial development and also one of destruction. It would not be uncommon for a magnificent heritage building to be totally obliterated under the cover of darkness in the interest of "progress", leaving local residents in absolute awe and despair:

Such was the clout of a legend Queensland premier in that era in the construction industry and politics. One can only trust our current and future political leaders don't fall for the same old three-card trick and that they preserve Tasmania's heritage buildings and not go down the Bjelke-Petersen path of "don't you worry about that".

**Chris Davey  
Lindisfarne**

## Poetry in motion

A REWORKING of Joyce Kilmer's famous poem:

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a crane.  
A crane whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
A crane that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A crane that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a crane.*

**Stephen Jeffery  
Sandy Bay**