

# Give power back to people

THE article about government planning power says it all (Talking Point, September 28) The people in the Premier's electorate of Franklin have felt this with the approval of two oversized developments for beautiful, historic Kangaroo Bay. The co-ordinator general, Premier, ministers and Clarence City Council have consulted and planned these developments since 2014. They have changed planning laws to make the development comply with whatever they felt acceptable, under the guise of economic benefit but at great expense to the ratepayers. This overdevelopment is so far removed from what community expected with the community consultation process, then to add insult to injury they are selling off the people's reclaimed waterfront Crown land to an \$8 billion foreign petrochemical company. For all our questions, petitions to parliament, letters and invites to community meetings held, our premier has never come and discussed these issues with the people of his own electorate.

**Cheryl Davison  
Bellerive**

## Height opportunity lost

IT'S disappointing the City Planning Committee missed an opportunity to defend and strengthen current height limits in the CBD and Sullivans Cove (*Mercury*, September 25). Our planning rules set 45m (10 to 12 storeys, depending on design) as the preferred "building amenity envelope" for CBD developments. This allows developers flexibility to go above other city height limits of 15 to 30m, if they meet certain design requirements. This 45m height has many benefits. It recognises our city's long winter shadows and

roaring 40s winds. It helps to protect Hobart's brand as Australia's second oldest city, a charming, human scale city that is distinctive because heritage buildings are not dominated by unsympathetic towers. In Sullivans Cove the 18m (four to five storey) limit is designed to protect a globally significant waterfront heritage precinct from development that may detract from its character. While it is positive the Planning Committee supported the concept of maximum limits and reducing the use of "discretion", they missed the chance to set current limits more firmly into law, I am concerned the Planning Committee has opened the door to taller height limits, which I doubt will be as well suited to protecting the character of Hobart.

**Alderman Anna Reynolds  
Hobart City Council**

## Christmas timing

CLARENCE City Council said at a recent community meeting about the proposed public pier at Kangaroo Bay that the council has no control over the timing of development applications. In the interests of community participation it's time the council gained control by strongly discouraging applications for large developments in December and January.

**Joanne Marsh  
Bellerive**

## Punt concern

SOMETIMES the Hobart City Council get it right, at other times they make a hash of it. The placement of a floating retail ice cream business in Constitution Dock in a spot where people would previously sit, relax and enjoy the view away

from the din of traffic going up Davey St is a distant memory. Is the placement of such a business due to the increasing foot traffic surrounding the retail fish punts opposite? Is this council initiative setting a precedent for retailers to set up a floating shop in an area that had been the berthing point for yachts and the like? If it is setting a precedent, Constitution Dock will have lost some of its character and charm, as having boats docked here was its sole purpose in the first place. Furthermore, the new punt is an obstruction. That said, commendations to the council for the upgrade of pathways, cycleways and signage in our splendid city, including the enhancement to Franklin Square. However, please refrain from overreaching in and around Mawson Place and Constitution Dock. Let's keep this area of our scenic waterfront relaxed, and not ruin it with overcommercialisation.

**Carmel Johnson  
South Hobart**

## Fast track warning

WITH regard to fast tracking of projects may I add my experience from Townsville. There is a huge motel on the edge of the beach in Townsville, Queensland. No thought was given to planning, everyone was caught by surprise. It is a huge monstrosity which dwarfs all other developments in the region. I am sure that the developers and their mates are doing quite nicely. Do you really want such arrogant exploitation in the historic town that you live in? Give the public a say. Decide what you want the city to look like in the future and stick with democracy.

**John Lamont  
Devonport**