

# We don't need high-rise towers

SO a Singapore-based company has decided that Hobart needs skyscrapers. This would irrevocably change the character of our beautiful city and all in the name of making money for the developer.

The proponents of these towering structures will certainly not be living and working in the shadow of the monstrosities that they want to foist on our town.

Why do most of us choose to live here? Part of Hobart's appeal as a place to live, and to visit, is its lack of skyscrapers. We are unusual among Australian cities in having preserved many of our fine colonial buildings.

Even in the very centre of the city we are only a minute or two from a glimpse of the Derwent or of Mt Wellington.

Why would we want to trash what is special about our city? What's in it for us?

I find it insulting that the proponents of a 120 metre high building consider that the support of the people of Hobart would be assured once we learned that there was full public access to the top of the building, the same building that stole our winter sun.

I assume that Hobart City Council will stand firm against this threat to the special place to live which Hobart is.

**Catharine Errey  
Fern Tree**

## We have other options

YOUR Saturday 29 April lead article dealt with the re-submission to Council of a 33 storey, 120 metre tall skyscraper proposal for lower Davey Street, submitted by Peter Scott of X Squared Architects, on behalf of a Singapore Developer.

When first proposed in October last year, Mr Scott, in an enthusiastic article in

the *Mercury*, compared his design favourably with the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum at Bilbao, which has been described as "the Greatest Building of Our Time", and also as "a Masterpiece of the 20th century".

Whoever said "you can't polish a turd" was right on the money, despite Mr Scott's totally inappropriate design having the in-built fragrance of a pedestrian skybridge to Franklin Square — the poor old fellow must be turning in his icy grave!

We have 8.5 hectares at Macquarie Point crying out for appropriate development — a 1000-2000 place flexible conference centre and suitably scaled five-star accommodation needs to be part of that.

We do have choices with our evolving built environment, in this little gem of a city.

**Geoff Roberts  
Hobart**

## Shadowy designs

SINGAPOREAN developer Fragrance Group has 'Hobart City Council to consider a 120 metre proposal for Davey Street which looks like it was put together by a fourth-year design student on work experience.

Across the road on the construction site that is Sydney-based Citta Property Group's Parliament Square there stands the soon-to-be-demolished 10 Murray Street.

This building's death warrant was finally sealed by the Parliament Square Planning Permit Act (2012) which put an abrupt end to the appeals process and excluded all buildings on the site from any heritage considerations.

Feel how you like about this notable

1960s expression of brutalism, but 10 Murray Street, just over one-third the height of the Fragrance proposal, will ultimately be reduced to rubble because she was considered by some to be too ugly and too tall for Hobart's gentrified waterfront.

Those who envisage Parliament Square as a rival to Melbourne's Federation Square are no doubt looking forward to packing a Thermos and picnicking on its patch of lawn.

As Hobartians we don't mind a bit of cold, but be sure to pack an extra jumper and prepare for a rude shock if the 120 metre Fragrance monster is ever given a chance to cast its midwinter shadow.

**Sam Leishman  
Hobart**

## Respect city's scale

I WAS concerned to read *High Ambitions* by Jennifer Crawley (*Mercury*, April 29). Hobart City Council had engaged architect and urban design consultant Leigh Woolley to do a report on what areas of the city were suitable for taller buildings.

Mr Woolley gave his recommendation to Clarence City Council which led to the approval of two five storey buildings, a hotel and TasTAFE hospitality school on Crown land on the Kangaroo Bay foreshore and forgot about his "elevation density" theory. I worry what he might end up recommending for Hobart City.

A petition of over 1700 signatures has been presented to the government against the development and we are still waiting for Mr Woolley to accept our invitation to talk to the local community to explain and justify his recommendation for Bellerive.

**Michael Geard  
Bellerive**