

Window of opportunity closing

CHARLES Wooley's warnings about the unwelcome effects of mass tourism (*Tas-Weekend*, November 25) are timely. Our window of opportunity to get things right is in danger of closing if we're not careful. Recently I was in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. It is an important tourist destination where they strive to blend the old with the new. There are many modern buildings but they prohibit high-rise in the city centre. They control the appearance of city architecture. No garish advertising and no clashing colours are allowed.

Even McDonald's came up with more subdued signage. The result is a city of 1.5 million that is pleasing to the eye, preserves its historic buildings and never overwhelms with ugly high-rise. How I wish our politicians and planners could take Hobart in the same direction.

**Wendy Pearson
Sandy Bay**

Giving away views

MANY would have noticed how captivating the vistas are around Kangaroo Bay now the old single-storey ferry terminal shed has been demolished. When looking north from Bellerive, you see foreshore works and playground, the cricket ground and skatepark overlooked by Gordons Hill. South along Kangaroo Bay Drive, you see yachts, boardwalk, village buildings and period houses on the bluff. The central area could be more attractive with pedestrian-friendly features, landscaping and perhaps boutique commercial buildings.

Unfortunately, we are going to get an oversized three to five-storey hotel and apartment buildings smack in the middle, so the best views will be given to people from overseas and other tourists. As Charles Wooley highlighted, civic leaders

and architects should serve the interests of the people who live in a location before they cater to the demands of people who do not.

**Rod Scott
Bellerive**

Spoiling what's special

SO Labor promises the North-West Coast a bucketload of money to build a cable car at Cradle Mountain, should it win majority government (*Mercury*, November 27). Here we go again, the government-in-waiting using one of Tasmania's iconic drawcards to grow its voting base. Cradle Mountain is not, or ever should be, a theme park, and metal structures thundering overhead through a winter stillness are not what Tasmanian tourism should be about. Labor may lose more votes than it gains if it insists on blindly following this Liberal Government's commitment to the development and ultimate loss of Tasmania's unique wilderness.

**Chris Needham
Blackmans Bay**

Only the best quality

I COMMENT Charles Wooley on his observations on life. I find my views on life in this delightful part of the world in close accord with his. Lest the reader think I am a complete sycophant, there are times I think Charles has flipped his wig and should have a Bex and good lie down. For too long we have gone along with the idea that anything to do with tourism should be encouraged without question. I find this frantic desire to encourage more tourism activity offensive and without any thought to the effect on people who live here. If developers had their way, we would have a

city dotted with phallic symbols masquerading as high-rise hotels. I am not advocating we do not allow tourists, but let us keep numbers to a reasonable level. We have enough brains to make our own way in the world. Let's use them to keep our lovely island the wonderful place it is. The only things we should permit are the very best and the highest quality.

**Carl Mann
Blackmans Bay**

Heed backlash

BRAVO Charles Wooley for speaking out about the perils of being swamped by tourism. Tasmania needs to take note of the increasing backlash in Europe to overtourism before it's too late. Why keep developing to the point where the capacity and enjoyment of a city is ruined? Especially for the people who live there.

**Yvonne Stark
Battery Point**

Pitfalls of popularity

CHARLES Wooley detailed the pitfalls of becoming too popular, in particular, rising rentals and real estate prices, traffic snarls and rising cost of living. While Hobart hasn't reached this point, we can learn from others. We should protect our heritage buildings and waterfront. This is what tourists want, not stores, hotels and businesses that can be seen in any big city. His comment that civic leaders should serve the people who live here before the people who don't rings true. Please, local and state government members, put the interests of locals ahead of outsiders, so our wonderful lifestyle is preserved.

**S. Ireland
Bellerive**