

Wrong target in visitor battle

HOBART Lord Mayor Ron Christie is right when he talks of the dangers of mass tourism but unfortunately he has chosen the wrong target. How great it was to see so many visitors to Dark Mofo, many of them young, wandering the streets of Hobart, spending cash and supporting our restaurants, shops, cafes and accommodation. It would have been better if the Lord Mayor's target had been cruise-ship visitors who spend little if any to support local businesses. Certainly nothing on accommodation and meals. I suspect that Dark Mofo contributes more to the local economy over two weeks than the annual influx of all the cruise-ship visitors. On a separate matter, how about using the Treasury buildings as short-term accommodation for the homeless?

Graham Bury
Sandy Bay

What next, visas?

SO tourism will be our downfall according to Ron. Therefore any gathering of mainlanders such as business conferences etc. Oh and let's not forget the Falls Festival or the Taste, all should be limited to a minimum number of attendees. How do we police this? Can I suggest visas, and Ron could become the Tasmanian immigration minister.

Leon Williams
Howrah

Elephant in the room

CONGRATULATIONS Ron Christie on your article (Talking Point, June 25). A refreshing and unabated assessment of Hobart. Criticised you will be. However, all you have done is addressed the elephant in the room. Such a shame the upper echelons of

our government cannot invest in liveability for the locals. Roads, transport, housing and health. All of which will have flow on benefits for visitors to the state. As the saying goes, Take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves.

Lee-Anne Spinks
Bellerive

Creative solutions

AFTER years having been known as the two-headed state how wonderful for Tasmania to be recognised as front and centre of cultural Australia. Surely we can embrace this and the tourism it brings without compromising what makes Tasmania unique. Hi-rise buildings are not the answer. Tasmania is blessed with creativity in our population and surely our designers, builders and planners can create accommodation that doesn't include hi-rise. We must maintain the aesthetics and character of our beautiful city or risk losing the very thing that makes it unique.

Genevieve Atkins
Glebe

Learn from Barcelona

MAYOR Christie is right. Barcelona is a tourism model to avoid. The 1992 Olympic Games put the city on the map and it lived its second 20th century heyday until 2000. By that time locals had stopped going to the city centre. There were too many people, drunk tourism in the form of stag and hen parties, a plethora of shops selling junk and trinkets plus the possibility of being mugged. The very things that made it a must-visit turned into a no-visit as the tourist buses run non-stop, taking hordes of punters to various points in what is now pretty much a theme park. The locals have

become aware of this too late. Finally they are pushing back. So let Hobart learn from all this. Dark Mofo is a mere two-week affair which brings well-dressed people to the streets and cash to hotels and shops. Surely Hobart can handle that. In summer do not try to stack as many cruisers in the harbour as we can. Move the terminal now outside the windows of the Macq OI Hotel (whose bright idea was that?) to further up or down the river so the town centre does not become a maze when a ship is in.

Tony Cartwright
Sandy Bay

Focus on council job

I WOULD have thought Mayor Ron Christie should focus on his job at hand, which is to guide the members of the HCC to undertake all that is for the good for the ratepayers of Hobart. Instead, he airs his own opinions with a view to changing Dark Mofo, Winter Feast and tourism. David Walsh has done more for Hobart than anyone on Hobart City Council for several years. Hobart and Tasmania are must-see places for interstate and international visitors, how can that be negative?

Stewart Edwards
Mt Stuart

Detrimental effects

I AGREE with Lord Mayor Ron Christie's views about the detrimental effects from mass tourism. Thirty years ago we moved to Tasmania from Sydney to seek a more peaceful way of life. It is no longer the situation. Too many issues going on which are appalling and a disgraceful indictment of what Tasmania has now become.

V. Taylor
Moonah