

# City's strength is unique beauty

THE *Mercury* editorial (June 19) hits the nail firmly on the head when it comes to just what sort of city we aspire to. Tasmania is going gangbusters in so many areas but on the flip side of the coin also faces huge challenges in others. Tourism is our benchmark and lifeblood of our surging economy. However, other issues such as fish farming in Okehampton Bay, forestry and high-rise development in Hobart are warning signs that all is not well within our community in terms of acceptance. Hobart and its surrounds offer unforgettable experiences for our guests on a daily basis but there is a very fine line between keeping it "a la natural" and overcommercialisation. While walking our pooch along beautiful Howrah Beach this morning I observed the Hong Kong flagged container ship Highland Chief heading into port. My very first thoughts were of the crew, many of whom would be of Asian descent, marvelling at our beautiful harbour and skyline devoid of tall buildings and Mt Wellington/kunanyi in the backdrop untouched thus far and in its natural pristine state. Oh yes, let's keep our precious city of Hobart just as she is.

**Chris Davey  
Lindisfarne**

## Wrong way

IS Clarence City Council really heading in the right direction with the Kangaroo Bay project as claimed by Evan Evans (Letters, June 17). Is development at any cost both visually and financially the right thing? The approved, oversized (for the location) development required 191 car parking spaces to meet planning scheme requirements, but only 63 could be crammed in the site. A smaller development in sym-

metry with the surroundings and in keeping with local expectations could accommodate the necessary parking. The council generously reduced the shortfall figure to 84 spaces, and charged the developer \$10,000 per space not provided, a total of \$840,000. They are now investigating what options there are to alleviate the parking and traffic congestion problems that are going to arise in the Bellerive and Rosny Park area as this and other big developments come along. One interim proposal is to construct a ground level carpark off Pembroke Place, on land that was planned to be a unit development site, at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million (100 spaces at \$15,000 each). \$10k in but \$15k out is not good maths for Clarence ratepayers). Along with other infrastructure works required to facilitate this development and the usual cost overruns, the council is likely to be paying out over \$1 million for this overseas-owned project. Then there will be the loss of rates over the years to come while a carpark occupies a residential unit site. It has not been disclosed what, if anything, the Hodgman Government required the developer to pay for the prime public waterfront land. The developer must be laughing. Clarence ratepayers and Tasmanians in general need to be told the facts. It is time for Will Hodgman to realise there is a lot of genuine public dissatisfaction with this project that he signed up for in China, and initiate a review into its size, composition and local area benefit. One change that would satisfy much of the opposition is to have the hospitality training school part of the project relocated to a more suitable location. It does not need to be in this prime position.

**Rod Scott  
Bellerive**

## Support welcome

I wish to extend a warm thank you to the *Mercury* letter writers who attended the community meeting about the Kangaroo Bay development very ably led by Rosalie Woodruff. Your fair and measured comments reflect the tenor of the concerns expressed by those who spoke and felt by those who listened. The response from the Clarence Council is highly predictable considering that after the last council election the mayor and deputy mayor declared that it was "business as usual".

**Joanne Marsh  
Bellerive**

## This land is our land

I AM concerned that Crown Land at Kangaroo Bay is being processed through the Lands Department in order that it be made available to an overseas developer. While the Premier may have been misled by Clarence Council to believe this would be popular with the community, I assure you it is extremely unpopular, due to lack of transparency by council and the lack of compliance with its own planning scheme. What has shocked the community most however, is that the State Government, via Clarence Council, has given the people's foreshore Crown Land to an overseas private company. This foreshore should be held in perpetuity for public recreational use of the people. You may have noticed that Sydney and other capital cities, are setting aside the city's foreshores for public access wherever possible, a policy made more difficult by the shortsighted sale of foreshores in the past.

**J. Wright  
Lindisfarne**