

HOT TOPIC HOBART HIGH-RISE

Keep our uniqueness

RECENTLY in Sydney I checked out the skyline while on a harbour ferry and imagined what Hobart would be like with the planned skyscrapers. The skyscrapers there dominate. Do we want that for Hobart? I think not. The two new structures proposed would be too obtrusive and not in keeping with the rest of the city's buildings. Hobart is too small a capital city to need or want what other capital cities have in the way of skyscrapers. Let's keep our uniqueness when it comes to our skyline.

Alan Leitch
Austins Ferry

Fleeing interstate

HOBART is set to become McMansion city: an unliveable conglomeration of high rise, high-density dwellings that is simply scandalous. No longer can residents assume, just because their own home was built to strict standards and regulations, which conformed to suburban living, that new surrounding dwellings will be required to conform to the same standards.

The "get rich quick" merchants are out in force and no Hobartian is safe. In unprecedented numbers, the Tasmanian Government is doing its utmost to help rush through the building plans of unscrupulous speculators and the ordinary Hobart residents do not know what it is that has hit them with the force of a juggernaut.

No point seeking protection from Hobart City Council either. At the council meeting held to consider three double-storey units inside an area of exclusively single-owner dwellings on a sloping internal block with insufficient usable land, and a narrow single exit to the street, one alderman told us we "need to get used to

density". There seems to be no limit to the "leniencies" a developer can obtain to defeat building regulations. Petitions representing local ratepayers seem to have very little, if any, weight with council. Traffic chaos and the safety of schoolchildren are, similarly, unimportant.

Like the development in Wynyard St that seemed to surprise surrounding residents with the force of a meteor, all Hobartians can expect to see that the need for one person to get rich at the expense of large numbers of nearby residents will outweigh any consideration for living standards in Hobart from now on. Hobart is a locality ripe for exploitation.

Hobartians need to be aware that the Government's latest planning reforms are delivering the demise of the Tasmanian way of life. The ordinary Tasmanian ratepayer will see his property lowered in value and his standard of living reduced to that of a rat in a cage. Protection is zero. Fleeing to the mainland is the only sensible option.

3 Nov 16

A. Francis
Sandy Bay