

Planning reform a minefield of drama

IN the 1960s there was a push to demolish the buildings in Salamanca to build shiny new ones. Thank goodness for a few good people, this never eventuated.

Currently before council and State Parliament, there are changes to the planning schemes of Hobart and the state. Council's scheme has words like bulking, intensification and conical, as well as a footnote height of 75 metres. This leaves a lot up for interpretation.

There are at least nine proposals for the city. Even if one of those buildings goes to a height of more than the set levels, this will be a precedent and pave the way for other developers who await the outcome to hit us with plans for Sandy Bay Rd and the top end of Elizabeth St, plus many vacant sites used for parking.

If just some of the nine sites get approval with excessive heights, the beauty of this city will be forever changed with

wind tunnels, no sunshine in the streets, and traffic chaos.

I hope passionate citizens can succeed in getting council and the State Government to develop this state in a way that we don't become another Gold Coast. Take heed from European cities that are becoming angry about the overload of tourists trashing their homes.

**Gail Sorbian
Ridgeway**

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