

Stand up for Hobart's character

AN open letter to Hobart's aldermen:

As an actor I have had the privilege of working around the world and travelling through and living in many cities both large and small, some high-rise and some historical cities where they have built new medium-rise buildings that only complement their already iconic surroundings.

My husband and children and I are currently living in Hobart again, the town of my birth and my "always" home, no matter how far or how long I travel.

Every time I fly home and drive and walk through Hobart my breath is taken away as I experience its beauty. It is one of the most beautiful, breathtaking, rich and warm, aesthetically pleasing cities in the world.

If not *the most*.

Of course there have been some ugly additions but they can mostly be looked past or beyond as they are not towering over everything in sight.

Many of our friends and colleagues from around the world have been visiting us lately to work on upcoming films with my husband, a director, and myself. All of them comment on Hobart's charm, great beauty, surprising grandeur and pleasing historical, aesthetic qualities. It's the city where everyone has a beautiful view.

Hobart is my home, it is our children's home, and I was appalled to learn that there are proposals to build two high-rise buildings in Hobart. We have something unique and special in Hobart, and if we develop it carefully, with respect for it and ourselves and our way of life, we can make it one of the special places in the world.

But Fragrance Group's high-rise hotels will destroy that possibility by establishing an unstoppable precedent for more tall towers. The end result though will not be a high-rise city, but a sad and broken town, the ruins of which Hobartians will be left to live in. I would urge all Tasmanians to stand up and fight these proposals.

Please, please, please do not approve the Fragrance Group high-rise proposals.

Do not let this city become a tasteless mishmash copy of the cities that got it wrong. Please, please, please hold out for talented architects who respect this city to make developments that complement this city and our state.

Please retain the beauty and charm and individuality of Hobart city.

Please say no to the Fragrance Group high-rise proposals.

**Essie Davis
Hobart**

Merc 8 May 2017



TOO BIG: Artist's impression of a proposed development at 2-6 Collins St.