Tasmania is different, special

SO the big end of town is closing ranks and attempting to silence the little guy ("Planning power play," *Mercury*, May II). We, the little guys, chose to live in Tasmania for its lifestyle, heritage and difference. We chose not to live in a concrete jungle of high-rise and glass.

As the State Government morphs into a dictatorship, we citizens of Tasmania are gradually being silenced by draconian legislation such as this proposed legislation giving the Planning Minister and State Government carte blanche decision-making over projects of state significance such as the Fragrance Hotels. So much for democracy.

Similar legislation may be in place in other states such as Western Australia and NSW. So what. This is Tasmania, different, unique, special. Why, oh why, is this State Government and its cohorts in the big end of town hellbent on turning it into an "everywhere else" concrete jungle?

Merc 13 May 17 Chris Needham Blackmans Bay



CONTROVERSY: Artist's impression of the proposed development for 2-6 Collins St, Hobart, by Fragrance Group.