

# We need rules of engagement on deal

YOUR editorial was right to question the lack of specifics in discussions on a city deal (*Mercury*, September 19). City deals should be an opportunity for local, state and federal governments to have discussions about opportunities and solutions to challenges for our city.

As the Regional Australia Institute said, "all players in a city deal need to be clear on rules of engagement for a collaborative city deal". As an elected local government representative, I am frustrated by a lack of clear rules of engage-

ment. There are no formal discussions occurring, or if there are we don't know about them. Perhaps informal conversations are happening but it seems most activity is via media release about favourite projects. My council has at this stage chosen a limited path for the city deal conversation, seeing it as an opportunity to get federal funding for the STEM building, which may be a worthy project, but should not be the only element of a deal about our city's future.

Council needs to explore what our

contribution will be to making this and other projects a success. For example, should we rezone the area between the city and North Hobart from commercial to a mixed-use zone to unlock more housing close to the university? We have a wonderful city that is ripe for discussion about planning our future. A city deal can be the catalyst via transparent negotiation between the levels of government. We just need someone to take the lead.

**Alderman Anna Reynolds**  
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