



HOT TOPIC STATE PLANNING OVERHAUL

Munday valued our heritage

THE death of Jack Munday reminded me of how much those of us who care about the history and character of Hobart owe to the Builders Labourers Federation leader, who in 1973 co-operated with the local National Trust to apply a Green Ban to save Battery Point and Salamanca Place from the demolition that was threatened. The first Green Bans in Sydney saved many of Sydney's historic areas.

It was rather shocking the next day to read the column by Hobart Alderman Simon Behrakis who in writing in support of Major Projects legislation made it quite clear he considers the views of the community should not be allowed to influence councils in deciding whether to approve developments, even if these views are expressed by large numbers of the local community. Developers are now ramping up their efforts to persuade people that development at any cost is a good thing.

I am thankful for Jack Munday, the National Trust and the Green Ban which was necessary to protect so much of what is now considered important to Hobart. I hope people can again resist the pressure applied by those with short memories.

Julia Greenhill
Sandy Bay

Right to appeal

PLANNING Minister Jaensch has still not adequately expressed the need for replacing the Regional Significance Process. Not only will councils be sidelined by the new Panel, the right to appeal and the high-rise building clause have been removed with insufficient safeguards in place to ensure



SAVED: Salamanca Place.

independence and evidence-based decisions. The Bill specifically refers to Wellington Park, allowing the Park's Management Plan to be overridden to facilitate the cable car; any project can be declared a Major Project by the minister.

The legislation ignites public distrust in elected representatives, with a proven record of political interference and attempted manipulation in the past. The deadline for consultation aligned with the State of Emergency declaration.

Peter Lutz
Taroona

Power of lobbying

SIMON Behrakis wants to stamp out the power of lobbying (Talking Point, May 11). Is he suggesting we should get rid of the Property Council, which is the most political organisation in planning? Community groups have emerged to counter the influence of the Property Council, which is one of the instigators of the introduction of the flawed Tasmanian Planning Provisions. Under the draft Major Projects legislation,

members of the community may have the same ability to make representations as they do now, but there is no right of appeal if the "independent" panel gets it wrong.

Eric Pinkard
Mount Stuart

Slash and burn

ALDERMAN Simon Behrakis is complaining about the large number of community groups lashing out at the Major Projects Bill, more correctly identified as "fast tracking for dodgy developers". Sorry sir, especially while people in one of those groups, the one supporting Bob Brown's campaign to preserve the magnificent old growth in the Tarkine, are being fined outrageous costs for a peaceful protest outside empty forestry buildings, we are only too aware that people in power are attempting to erode our democratic rights. The slash, burn and build policy of old is no longer the way forward for this state.

A. Francis
Sandy Bay

In the dark

READER Catharine Errey is right in calling for deadlines to comment on changes to planning laws to be postponed until we're ready to move on after COVID-19 (Letters, April 6). Even if you're not physically impacted by COVID-19, it's surely enough to deal with psychologically on a daily basis, without having the perception of a COVERT-20 on top of it.

Stephen Jeffery
Sandy Bay

Webwords



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Macquarie Point awards contract for excavation and road works

I am totally confused about what is going on here. Is there an overall plan? It seems like they are just selling off bits for developers to do what they like. What happened to the Mona overall vision?

— Tyrone Slothrop

TODAY'S TEXT

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. — James 3:13-14

Quickviews

Cash easier to manage

I'M not old by any means but old-fashioned? Possibly? Maybe? Some of us prefer and manage our finances better using physical cash rather than a card (Letters, May 5). There could be no more germs on cash than on a public toilet, a public door handle or your mobile phone. Yes wash your hands frequently, irrespective of anything you've done when you've been out in public.

T. Farrell
Kingston

Restoring budgets

I HAVE full confidence in the Liberal Government restoring our budget. After all they have had plenty of practice restoring it after a Labor government.

Jim Oost
Dover

Call bluff on barley

CHINA is shortly to slap huge tariffs on exports of Australian barley. Let this be the wake-up call we should have foreseen. Time to immediately call their bluff and source other markets for our exports.

Paul Merhulik
Blackmans Bay

Unrealistic reality

READER David Legro says that "to think the world can halve emissions in a decade is unfortunately totally unrealistic" (Letters, May 13). As "totally unrealistic" as closing down much of the global economy in just a few weeks?

John Hunter
West Hobart

Support Tassie sanitiser

I NOTICED in the Mercury Tasmanian companies that have converted distilleries to produce sanitisers, Lark and Tasmanian Spirit Company. These are made in Tasmania and to the exact recipe. I have seen sanitisers made in China without proper labelling and no mention of alcohol content. We should support Tasmanian companies.

Jo-Anne Bateman
Strathblane

Broaden our range

DR Lisa Denny is not arguing against Australia's national economy being founded on consumption (Talking Point, May 11), she is arguing Australia's range of products and markets is too narrow.

John Andrews
Cygnet

Fuel price rebound

ANY chance fuel prices will come out of lockdown the same day people do.

Robert Lovell
Dysart

Let us eat cake

THE world economic cake has just shrunk from a giant five-tier wedding monument to a melting moment! Who's going to beg for the crumbs?

Steve Bailey
Glenorchy

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