

The Mercury

Letters to the Editor

24 July 2020

Huge approval rate

READER Mick Bendor's suggestion that Hobart City Council has an anti-development agenda has no basis in fact (Letters, July 20). Over the past three years there has been continued development interest with approvals to the value of \$850m. Each year the number of approvals dwarfs refusals. In the past financial year it was 760 approvals versus 10 refusals. Can an approval rate of 98.7 per cent be regarded a brake on development?

Council's planners are available to provide guidance to applicants and those wanting to lodge representations. Some applications are well beyond what is acceptable when measured against the planning scheme. It doesn't always stop applicants from putting in what could be described as ambit applications. Public involvement is important and can lead to better development. Anything that reduces this right to be heard, including changes to Major Projects legislation, erodes the public's right to be heard.

Hobart Deputy Mayor Helen Burnet

Chair, City Planning Committee