

OPINION

New council needs to get act together quickly

MONDAY night was the start of a new era on Hobart City Council with each new councillor sworn in for the four-year term.

The new council of mayor Anna Reynolds, deputy mayor Helen Burnet, Marti Zucco, Simon Behrakis, Bill Harvey, Mike Dutta, Zelinda Sherlock, John Kelly, Louise Elliot, Louise Bloomfield, Ryan Posselt and Ben Lohberger have a lot to live up to.

For a start, it will be interesting to see how well this team can work together. There was plenty of mudslinging in the election campaign and if things are to continue in that vain, Hobartians will be the losers.

Why?

Because valuable time and money will be taken up with petty attacks and gotcha moments.

Hobart is at the crossroads and for the city to prosper while keeping ratepayers happy, the council needs

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to be able to work together. They need to listen to one another's complaints and differences, but be ready to give and bend for the benefit of the region.

The University of Tasmania's move to the CBD is one thing that needs to be sorted.

Yes, there was a no vote, but the

problem is most of the move has already happened.

So much of the university is bricks and mortar in the city now and that can't be reversed without causing irreparable damage to the institution.

The uni, and ratepayers, need a clear path forward.

Crystal clear planning laws, combined with decision-making done in a clear and transparent way (not behind closed doors) so the public knows who is making what

decision is imperative. The same applies for the future of kunanyi /Mt Wellington. Now the cable car is seemingly gone, what is the council going to do to improve the mountain?

Height limits in the city, development in Battery Point and infill development plans all need to be clear and concise. And councillors then need to adhere to the plans and not bend and shift on the political whim of a few. A transparent and strong council is needed.