

Follow Devonport lead, says Shearwater group

By MICHAEL LOWE

OPPONENTS of a proposed Shearwater supermarket development say plans to consolidate Devonport's city centre are vindication of their concerns.

Pressure group Save Our Seaside Village says the Latrobe Council's Shearwater-Port Sorell Strategic Plan will be bad for the area.

The plan proposes a business precinct, including a supermarket, about 700 metres from the existing village business district.

Save Our Seaside Village spokesman Guy Barnett said yesterday that the council's proposal would effectively split the village business heart in two.

Mr Barnett said a Devonport City Council plan announced this month to consolidate business into one area in that city showed that the Shearwater plan was flawed.

He said Devonport had strayed from having a single business district and now saw that as a mistake.

Mr Barnett said a meeting of almost 200 people in Shear-

water last month voted overwhelmingly to reject the Shearwater strategic plan and called for a parliamentary inquiry (which has been backed by the Greens) and for more information on development plans for the new area.

He said a Latrobe Council regulation from 2008 limited growth on existing businesses to 250 square metres per business, but this would not apply to businesses in the new area, which was anti-competitive.

Latrobe Mayor Mike Gaffney said the 2008 regulation was suggested by

businesses to preserve the niche village feel of the area.

He said the Alexander Street area was zoned commercial in 2008 and there were no complaints until last year.

Under the zoning, a shopping centre was allowed and the council would be going against its own planning scheme to refuse one.

Cr Gaffney said the strategic plan would give room for growth in Alexander Street and allow the existing business area to develop as a niche shop-cafe area.



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