

**Treasurer
Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal
Leader of the House**

Level 10, Executive Building, 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 9405 | Email: minister.abetz@dpac.tas.gov.au



12 JUN 2026

Hon Helen Burnet MP
Chair
Estimates Committee A
ben.fox@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Burnet

Please find below and attached the following responses to questions raised before Estimates Committee A.

Treasurer

Questions:

1. Within the Budget, how much is allocated or envisaged for Ministerial or Government member legal fees? In exactly which line item does it sit?
2. Provide a comprehensive list of all exemptions and/or discounts in fees, charges, levies, taxes etc that will be removed, or have been factored into the budget as being removed, in order to increase own source revenue?
3. Did the Premier make changes to the budget papers in relation to the number of jobs to be reduced across the public sector?
4. How much is allocated in the 2026-27 Budget for Ministerial and Government member legal fees, similarly for the 2025-26 and 2024-25 Budgets?
5. Please provide the last five financial years revenue from General Casino Tax and Licence Fees?
6. Is the allocation of funding in the current FY and across the forward estimates and the timeframes correct for the North West Regional Hospital Mental Health Precinct? Is there an error in the budget papers as indicated by the Health Minister in Committee A on 1 June 2026?
7. What total revenue does Tasmania currently receive annually from salmon lease arrangements, and has Treasury modelled alternative royalty or lease pricing structures comparable to jurisdictions such as Norway?
8. When did you receive the request from TT-Line for an additional \$506 million bailout?
9. How much has been spent on advertising the 2026-27 State Budget? Can a breakdown across individual media outlets detailing name and amount to be provided?

Responses:

1. There is no specific line item in the Budget for Ministerial or Government Member legal fees.

The Budget for Ministerial or Government members legal fees form part of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Budget (Chapter 7 of Budget Paper No. 2). Legal Fees are paid from Output 1.1 Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders. Legal Fees form part of Supplies and Consumables as listed under Table 7.4 on page 149.

Due to the ad hoc nature of legal fees and legal proceedings an amount is not allocated in the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Budget in any given year.

2. The Budget does not contain information at that level of detail across all portfolios.

Within the Treasurer's portfolio, the following taxation-related exemptions and concessions expire on 30 June 2026. The increases in own source revenue that result from these measures expiring were already factored into the Budget and forward estimates years within past Budgets:

- First Home Buyer Duty Exemption (first home buyers of established homes duty relief)
- New Apartment Duty Concession (off the plan apartment or unit duty concession)
- Land tax exemption for a newly constructed dwelling made available for long-term rental (new home used for long term rental exemption)
- Land tax exemption for short stay accommodation converted to long-term rental (short term visitor accommodation converted to long term rental exemption)

3. No.

4. As per (1) above.

5. See tables below.

The Future Gaming Market was implemented on 1 July 2023, resulting in an overall increase in gambling related revenue for State Government and the Community Support Fund.

General Casino tax

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Table Gaming	\$66,122	\$72,043	\$80,516	\$85,222	\$104,256
Gaming Machines	\$19,243,933	\$17,983,651	\$19,437,581	\$8,352,320	\$8,890,863
Keno in Casinos ¹	\$193,116	\$190,479	\$209,644	\$30,096	\$33,629
Total Tax	\$19,503,171	\$18,246,173	\$19,727,741	\$8,467,638	\$9,028,748

1 -- Indicative figures for 2022-23 and prior years. Prior to 1 July 2023 the payment of all keno-related tax was the responsibility of the gaming operator (Network Gaming) and casinos did not directly pay keno tax.

General Casino licence fees

	2020-21 ²	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Casino Licence Fees	\$670,400	\$4,068,000	\$4,305,600	\$2,083,199	\$2,188,530

2 -- Government support for businesses impacted by COVID-19 restrictions included financial support for the gaming industry through waiver/refund of most fees from March 2020 to April 2021.

6. Construction of the new Mental Health Precinct is expected to start later this year and be completed in 2028. As is the nature of a large capital works program, the Budget Papers reflect allocations at a point in time and are adjusted as a matter of course to suit the realities of project delivery.
7. The Government introduced full cost recovery in 2023, which ensures the entire cost of regulation is borne by the industry. This cost recovery levy raises around \$10 million annually.

There is no specific line item in the Budget for salmon lease arrangements. The Administered Revenue item, Marine Farms Fees and Recoveries on page 178 of Budget Paper No. 2 of \$1.776 million in 2026-27 includes salmon lease arrangements. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE) has advised that, for 2026-27, this amount is \$1.32 million.

Treasury has not been requested to undertake detailed modelling of alternative royalty or lease pricing structures of the type implemented in Norway or other jurisdictions.

8. TT-Line wrote to the Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport on 2 March 2026 to request equity funding totalling \$506 million over the Budget and Forward Estimates period.
9. All amounts are excluding GST:
 - Tasmanian Business Reporter May 2026 - Font Publishing - \$5 880
 - Pulse Media Group - \$5,122
 - NewsCorp Australia - \$2,811.89

Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal

Questions:

1. Can the Minister provide a copy of the MOU between TasPorts and the Macquarie Point Development Corporation?
2. As at 2.40 p.m. on 2 June 2026, had the probity panel for the stadium tender process checked with the Fair Work Ombudsman in NSW to determine whether WeBuild was under investigation by that agency after being referred by the NSW Workplace Relations Minister in September?
3. How many EOIs (Expressions of Interest) were received by MPDC and how many were deemed compliant or complete EOIs?
4. What are the elements of due diligence incorporated in the Probity Report associated with the WeBuild and Constructure Joint Venture EOI?
5. In September 2025, at the same time the NSW Workplace Relations Minister referred issues concerning WeBuild to the Fair Work Ombudsman, the matter was also referred to the Federal Police. Was due diligence undertaken in relation to that referral to the Federal Police as at 3.15 p.m. on 2 June 2026?
6. What costs were incurred by MPDC in relation to work undertaken by TasNetworks concerning the proposal for a single point of connection to the Macquarie Point site?
7. How much of the \$440,000 contract for development of the DEIS was expended by MPDC? What was the total amount spent on development of the DEIS?
8. How much expenditure has been incurred or committed by State Growth in legal expenses, consultants, print advertising, incidentals, equipment and other support costs associated with the Macquarie Point Stadium?
9. How much taxpayer funding was provided to support the creation of the television program "Ground Up"?
10. What is the total 'GST reimbursement' payable to Veolia to extinguish responsibilities under the term sheet?
11. Please provide the most up-to-date estimate of the energy requirements of the Macquarie Point Stadium.

Responses:

1. The MOU between TasPorts and the Macquarie Point Development Corporation (MPDC) has been provided as part of this correspondence, as Attachment 1.
2. The Expression of Interest process involved both a Probity Advisor and Evaluation Panel.

The role of the Probity Advisor in the EOI process was to assist MPDC to identify, assess and manage probity risks arising during the procurement process such that probity compliance with the relevant policies and guidelines was achieved in all material respects.

This role was separate to the role of the Evaluation Panel whose role was to assess the Expressions of Interest that were received against the established evaluation criteria.

As part of the evaluation process for the Financial Capability Assessment, announcements related to health, safety and environmental issues that may have a reputational or and financial impact were considered.

The Evaluation Panel for the Expression of Interest process did not contact all of the jurisdictions around Australia or law enforcement agencies (such as state-based Fair Work Ombudsmen or the Federal Police) to enquire if any nominated organisation was under investigation for an alleged breach. This is not part of usual practice for a procurement process.

The Probity Advisor advised that for the Expression of Interest process:

- There were no observed or reported outstanding probity issues
- The recommendation of the Evaluation Committee was considered defensible from a probity perspective and aligned to their observations at the Committee meetings and based on relevant considerations
- There were no probity impediments to the delegated authority acting on the recommendation of the Committee for the selection of the preferred respondents.

The procurement remains an active process and is currently in the Request for Tender phase. The Request for Tender has two stages. Tenders will be received at the end of stage one for consideration and assessment.

At this point the tenders will be assessed and related matters can be considered, including any investigations that the Corporation/Committee identifies as appropriate to undertake to inform the assessment, in accordance with the established evaluation criteria.

3. MPDC are currently in the Request for Tender phase for the stadium contractor, which has two stages. It is inappropriate to disclose information related to the bids received as it may compromise the integrity of the procurement process.

The Probity Advisor has confirmed that while there is a requirement for transparency of a tender process, there is also a requirement to maintain confidentiality in order to respect the tenderers involvement.

4. Please refer to the response to question 2
5. Please refer to the response to question 2
6. MPDC has expended a total of \$23,200.95 (ex GST) to date for the Stadium connection application.
7. The contract with Renewable Intelligence totalled \$667,407 (inc GST). The contract was varied from the original value to provide additional financial modelling.
The contract provided technical information that will inform the final power supply and mechanical design solution.
8. The Department of State Growth has incurred expenditure totalling \$22,995.80 related to the Macquarie Point Urban Renewal Project in the period 1 July 2025 – 3 June 2026, primarily related to legal expenses (\$22,075.80)

9. Total funding for *Ground Up* was \$235,000.

Screen Tasmania supported the writing of the series through two tranches of Project Development funding totalling \$35,000.

In February 2025, the Screen Tasmania Expert Advisory Group (STEAG) considered an application from the production company for \$200,000 to support the production of the six-part series. The application was recommended by the STEAG and subsequently approved by Creative Tasmania under delegation.

10. The reimbursement amount is capped at \$1.8 million (ex GST).
11. The load submitted with the Stadium connection application was approximately 9.6MVA.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', written in a cursive style.

Hon Eric Abetz MP
Treasurer
Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal



TasPorts and Macquarie Point Development Corporation Site Planning Memorandum of Understanding

This document sets out the Memorandum of Understanding between Macquarie Point Development Corporation (ACN 657 409 841) and Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd (ACN 114 161 938) in respect of:

- A shared approach to master planning and development of the Macquarie Point Precinct, including land owned by Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd and Macquarie Point Development Corporation
- Collaboration to support relevant developments that deliver whole of Macquarie Point Precinct outcomes
- Collaboration in the installation of infrastructure to support the development of the Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd and Macquarie Point Development Corporation sites
- Access to the Port of Hobart (the **Port**) for both port-based operations and for materials moved to and from the Macquarie Point Precinct to support development

Item	Term	Details
1	Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Macquarie Point Development Corporation (MPDC), and ▪ Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd (TasPorts).
2	Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TasPorts is a state-owned company established under the <i>Tasmanian Ports Corporation Act 2005</i> and is the operator of the Port of Hobart, situated on the Derwent River at the waterfront of Hobart. It is the only port facility in the south of Tasmania. The Port of Hobart is a 24-hour working port, a key gateway to Antarctica, and a popular cruise ship destination. ▪ MPDC is a statutory corporation established under the <i>Macquarie Point Development Corporation Act 2012</i> and is responsible for the remediation, redevelopment and transition of Macquarie Point into a vibrant mixed-use precinct and the construction of the proposed multipurpose stadium at Macquarie Point (the Stadium Project). ▪ Macquarie Point is geographically adjacent to the Port of Hobart. ▪ In this Memorandum of Understanding, the Macquarie Point Precinct (or the Precinct) is the area shown on the plan at Macquarie Point Precinct Plan (Annexure A) and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the land owned by MPDC, referred to in this Memorandum of Understanding as Macquarie Point;

Item	Term	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the Port (marked on the Macquarie Point Precinct Plan as TasPorts Macquarie Wharf); o TasPorts Huon Quays; o the TasRail Transit Corridor; and o the area marked on the Macquarie Point Precinct Plan as City of Hobart land. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Parties have entered into this Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate input and take a whole of Precinct approach to the development and management of the Macquarie Point Precinct.
3	Principles	<p>The Implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding is informed by the following key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TasPorts is a state-owned company with statutory obligations to facilitate trade for the benefit of Tasmania, and to operate in accordance with sound commercial practice. ▪ MPDC is a statutory corporation and is required to facilitate the redevelopment of Macquarie Point. ▪ Ongoing access to the Port of Hobart is required throughout the development and operational stages of delivering the Macquarie Point Precinct. ▪ Opportunities for development and infrastructure management of the Macquarie Point Precinct will be informed by delivering the best outcomes for the whole Precinct.
4	Objectives	<p>The Parties' joint objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ continue and formalise the engagement and collaboration between MPDC and TasPorts and to advance opportunities to support a whole of precinct approach to the development of the Macquarie Point Precinct ▪ where appropriate, take a cohesive approach to the management of engagement with external stakeholders ▪ identify and explore opportunities for co-design, co-development co-investment that support whole of Precinct outcomes and ensure optimal results for the community ▪ where practical, seek efficiencies and synergies in the engagement of consultants and contractors to evaluate and progress commercial opportunities. This may include the sharing of information and third party advice, and the joint engagement of consultants and contractors ▪ collaborate and progress the management and implementation of infrastructure upgrades to service the Macquarie Point and Port of Hobart sites ▪ deliver an overarching master plan summary to implement the Macquarie Point Precinct Plan 2024 and align the Port of Hobart master plan and the Macquarie Point master plan ▪ facilitate access and the delivery of materials via the Port to Macquarie Point, particularly to support the delivery of the Stadium Project ▪ maintain access to, and minimise short term impacts on the operations of the Port during the construction period ▪ collaborate on the development of dilapidation surveys across the Precinct, including facilitating access for the installation of monitoring equipment for the collection of construction data such as noise, vibration and dust, and sharing of the resulting data and reports, and


Item	Term	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ support regular and open communication to ensure any issues or concerns are managed in a way that is acceptable to the Parties in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding.
5	Term	Unless ended at an earlier date by agreement, this Memorandum of Understanding will have effect from the date it is signed until both the Port of Hobart master plan and the Macquarie Point master plan are implemented or after a period of five years, whichever is earlier.
6	Master Planning	<p>MPDC and TasPorts will work together in good faith to support the development of the Port of Hobart master plan and its integration with the Macquarie Point master plan. The Parties will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identify areas for alignment between the Macquarie Point master plan and the Port of Hobart master plan, including co-design, co-development and co-investment opportunities; ▪ share, on a confidential basis, information which is relevant to the development of the Port of Hobart master plan and the Macquarie Point master plan; ▪ work collaboratively in their approach to the commercial market making reasonable efforts to ensure cohesiveness in the presentation of the entire Macquarie Point Precinct and the opportunities it presents; and ▪ take a whole of site approach to identifying uses and opportunities and endeavour to complement and not undermine or compete with each other for commercial opportunities. Processes for pursuing opportunities will be formalised between the parties.
7	Site access and logistics	<p>MPDC and TasPorts will work collaboratively to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ facilitate the transport and delivery of materials required for the Stadium Project via the Port to the Stadium Project site; ▪ agree on arrangements to efficiently support the logistics and transport of equipment and materials within the Macquarie Point precinct; and ▪ ensure that both Parties have adequate notice of and input into all transport and logistics arrangements which have the potential to impact the operations of the other party.
8	Development Opportunities	<p>MPDC and TasPorts will work collaboratively to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identify uses and development zones across the Macquarie Point Precinct ▪ identify and progress opportunities for developments that service the whole of Precinct and provide an appropriate financial return that meets the reasonable requirements (including the risk appetite) of the parties respectively ▪ consider where developments would be best delivered with interfacing between site boundaries ▪ for each opportunity identified for collaboration through this Memorandum of Understanding, determine the best model to support design, commercial and investment management, implementation, and confirm roles and responsibilities.
9	Infrastructure development	<p>MPDC and TasPorts will work collaboratively and use reasonable endeavours to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ progress the delivery of planned infrastructure upgrades to support the operations and development of the Port and Macquarie Point Site ▪ ensure the delivery of infrastructure upgrades are coordinated and prioritised to support development timelines and requirements of the whole Precinct.
10	Working Group	A. Purpose

Item	Term	Details
		<p>The Parties will establish a Working Group, the purpose of which is to provide a forum for the Parties to meet regularly to progress the matters outlined above, and any other items arising and agreed in keeping with the Principles and Objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding.</p> <p>B. Composition</p> <p>The Working Group will comprise of two representatives from each of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MPDC; and ▪ TasPorts, <p>and a communications resource from each organisation.</p> <p>Proxies and observers can be nominated from time to time to attend on behalf of each Party.</p> <p>C. Meeting frequency and location</p> <p>The Working Group will meet on a monthly basis, or as otherwise agreed between MPDC and TasPorts, at a time and location to be agreed between the Parties.</p> <p>D. Meeting agenda and minutes</p> <p>MPDC will coordinate the preparation of a draft meeting agenda and circulate the agenda to the Parties for comment no less than 3 business days before the next scheduled Working Group meeting.</p> <p>MPDC will circulate meeting minutes to TasPorts within 5 business days after each Working Group meeting.</p>
11	Steering Committee	<p>The Parties will establish a Steering Committee, the purpose of which is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide oversight of the activities of the Working Group; ▪ ensure that members of the Working Group meet and engage in a cooperative and good faith manner; and ▪ resolve any matters which may be escalated to it by the Working Group or any member of the Working Group for guidance, discussion or decision.
12	Governance arrangements	<p>In addition to the Working Group and Steering Committee to be established pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding, the following governance arrangements will remain in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Precinct Plan Project Steering Committee which supports coordinated master planning and development of the Macquarie Point Precinct; ▪ Coordination meeting between TasPorts, MPDC, Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd, Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd and any other parties to the Coordination Deed dated proposed to be executed in 2026 to discuss development and works scheduling across the broader Precinct; and ▪ Macquarie Point Urban Renewal Oversight Committee. <p>The Parties intend to develop and agree governance frameworks and processes, including arrangements for the management of conflicts of interest and commercial enquiries.</p> <p>The Parties acknowledge that the respective governance requirements of each Party are expected to take precedence over any arrangements set out in agreements between the Parties or in this Memorandum of Understanding.</p>
13	Resources and costs	<p>The Parties agree to commit adequate resources to achieve the Objectives and to ensure their obligations pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding are met, including nominating appropriately skilled representatives to attend the Working Group and the Steering Group respectively.</p>


Item	Term	Details
		The Parties shall each bear their own costs of complying with this Memorandum of Understanding.
14	Provision of data	Each Party may provide to the other any information it holds which may reasonably assist the advancement of this Memorandum of Understanding. All information shared pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be protected by the Parties' obligations arising out of the Confidentiality Agreement between them dated 21 August 2024. MPDC will advise TasPorts when it is entitled to rely on third party advice and information provided to MPDC.
15	Confidentiality	The Parties must keep confidential any discussions of the Working Group or Steering Committee, and any reports, information or data shared pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding, except to the extent necessary to implement any agreed arrangements in furtherance of the Port of Hobart master plan.
16	Nature of Memorandum of Understanding	This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to be legally binding.

EXECUTED as an agreement dated

Executed for and on behalf of Macquarie Point Development Corporation ABN 92 657 409 841 by its duly authorised representative

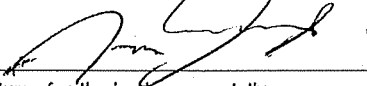

Signature of authorised representative
25/3/26

KIM EVANS
Name of authorised representative (print)



Signature of witness

Anne Beach
Name of witness (print)

Executed for and on behalf of Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd ABN 82 114 161 938 by its duly authorised representative


Signature of authorised representative
24/3/26

GREG MCCANN
Name of authorised representative (print)


Signature of witness
24/3/26

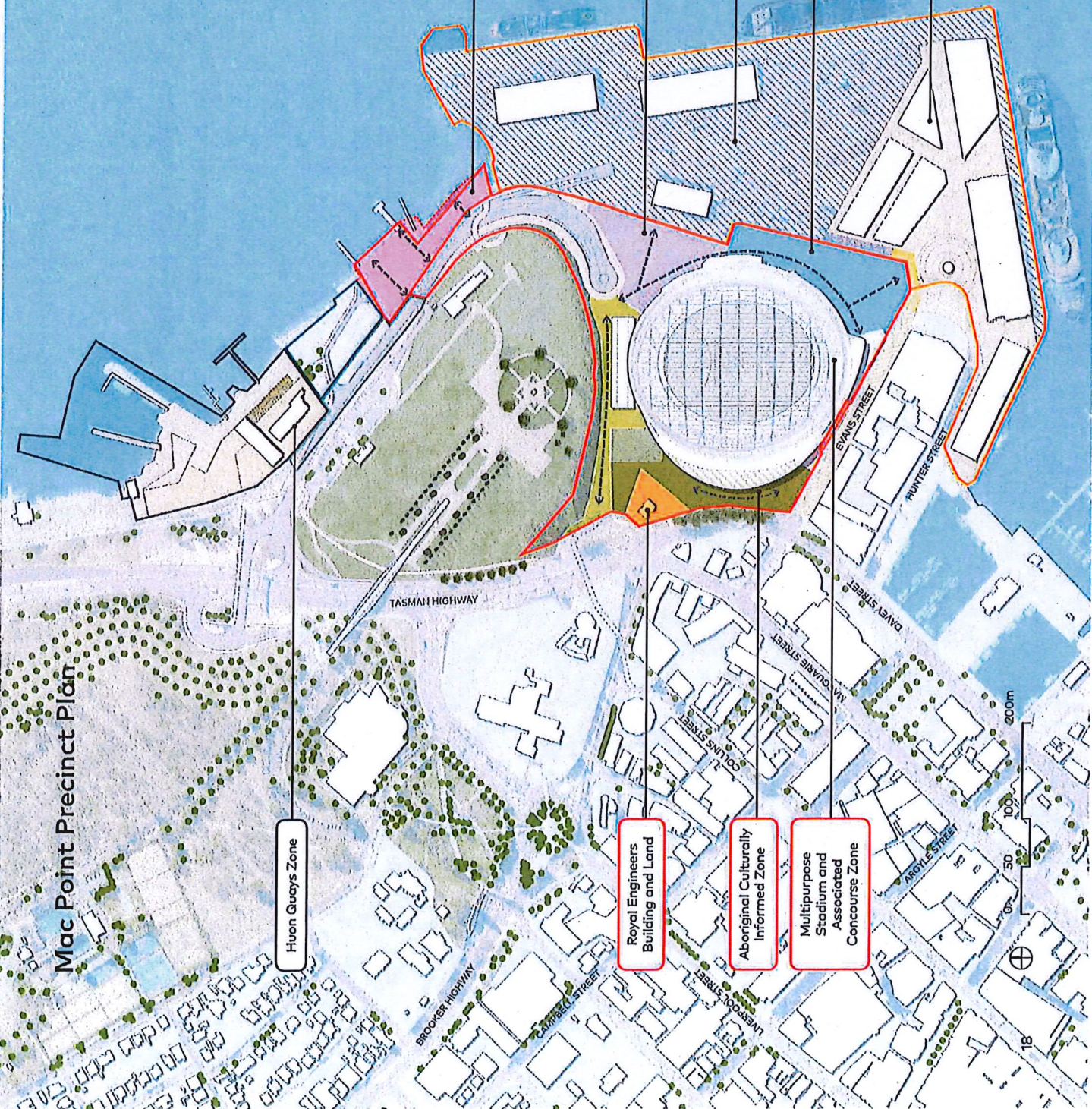
Pendelope Sak
Name of witness (print)

Annexure A

Mac Point Precinct Plan

Precinct Districts

- Mac Point Site
- TasPorts Macquarie Wharf
- TasRail Transit Corridor
- City of Hobart land
- TasPorts Huon Quays



Huon Quays Zone

Royal Engineers Building and Land

Aboriginal Culturally Informed Zone

Multipurpose Stadium and Associated Concourse Zone

Residential Development and Public Foreshore Zone

Antarctic Facilities Zone

Port Secure Zone

Complementary Integrated Mixed Use Zone

Port Commercial Zone

The Precinct Plan is a ground plane map only. The Plan does not include tapering, transition or overhanging built form. The Plan shows indicative area allocation.

