

FACT SHEET

Stadiums Tasmania Bill (2021)

In April 2021, the Tasmanian Government announced plans to establish Stadiums Tasmania, a new statutory entity, to oversee the sound use, management and future development of Tasmania's major public stadiums and related assets across the state.

The *Stadiums Tasmania Bill 2021* has been developed in response to this commitment.

The establishment of Stadiums Tasmania will centralise the ownership, management, and future capital development of major stadium assets under a single entity with a statewide perspective. It will ensure the effective and efficient operation of these assets, ensure they remain fit for purpose, continue to meet the future needs of sporting codes, other users, and their audiences, and further develop staff expertise in stadium management.

Stadiums Tasmania is expected to assume responsibility initially for up to four stadiums; MyState Bank Arena in Hobart and the Silverdome in Launceston are already owned by the Crown. The potential inclusion of UTas Stadium in Launceston, which is owned by the City of Launceston, and Blundstone Arena in Hobart, which is owned by the City of Clarence and Cricket Tasmania, is yet to be confirmed and are being explored.

Transfer agreements will be negotiated for how these stadium transfers occur.

The *Stadiums Tasmania Bill 2021* contains the following features:

- The establishment of a new contemporary and bespoke statutory authority, whose features are largely drawn from provisions within existing Tasmanian legislation;
- A suite of functions that highlight the important range of duties, roles and responsibilities being assigned to the Board and staff of Stadiums Tasmania;
- A range of powers and provisions that will equip Stadiums Tasmania to achieve an appropriate balance of commercial focus and community objectives;
- Establishing a skills-based Board of five to seven members, with qualifications, experience, and expertise in areas critical to the Authority's success; and
- Provisions that maximise transparency and accountability, including a statement of expectations, Ministerial directions, annual audit and report, and the need for the Board to develop a triennial strategic plan and annual business plans.

KPMG is assisting Government to develop a sound profile of each of these stadiums, encompassing their features, finances, and operational arrangements. This task will establish a clear picture of all the stadiums' assets, liabilities, agreements, employees, and employee

entitlements that will need to be considered. This work will help to guide future discussions and negotiations, and the due diligence and transfer processes.

A staged approach is being used to implement Stadiums Tasmania.

The *Stadiums Tasmania Bill 2021* will establish this new statutory authority. It will equip it with the leadership and personnel it needs to commence operations, inform the due diligence and transition process for stadium transfers, and develop its organisational structure and operational systems. As part of this process, the Government expects to advertise and appoint a suitably qualified Executive Chairperson to initially lead the Authority. This role will then revert to a non-executive chairperson.

A subsequent Bill will then be prepared for introduction in 2022. This will facilitate the transfer and transition process, and identify and address any consequential amendments needed, based on the completed due diligence process, and ensure the smooth transition of all stadium-related assets, contracts, liabilities, and employees that may transfer.

Stadiums Tasmania is expected to be established in late 2021, commence operating in early 2022 and start to assume responsibility for the agreed stadiums from mid-2022.

The 2021 State Budget included a nominal recurrent appropriation for Stadiums Tasmania. A financial profile of each stadium and the budgetary requirements for their inclusion will be independently developed. This information will be presented to Government and used to guide any future appropriations that will be needed by this new entity.