

From: [Richard Welsh](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Subject: Macquarie Point Stadium submission
Date: Monday, 26 December 2022 6:13:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
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Hi Simon,

I tried to find the relevant place on the site www.parliament.tas.gov.au but couldn't see the relevant area to make a submission, so here we are on email – not sure of the format you were wanting it in.

While my business in sporting events, I have a number of issues with the proposed Macquarie Point Stadium and am strongly AGAINST the stadium proceeding and against an AFL team in Tasmania, for the following reasons;

1. Discrepancy in funding – AFL already receives approximately \$8.5Million for the Tasmanian government each year. While 36 sports funded by the Tasmanian government currently share approximately \$1.15Million per year. That's an average of \$31,944 per year. This does not include infrastructure investment. Therefore AFL in Tasmania already receives approximately 266 times more funding than most other sports in Tasmania.
2. Venues - Tasmania already has a number of existing venues ready for AFL. Not just Bellerive Oval and York Park, but venues at Dial (Penguin), West Park, Devonport, Brighton, Glenorchy, North Hobart, Twin Ovals. All of these have better facilities than say KGV, which is the premier venue in Tasmanian for soccer.
3. Crowd numbers - of AFL are declining across Australia and Tasmania. Crowd numbers were their lowest on average in 2022 (30,461) compared to pre Covid in 2019 (37,250) and are at their lowest since 1995.
4. Participation – rates in AFL is the 16 most popular in Australia - <https://www.statista.com/statistics/879755/australia-sports-participants-by-type/>
5. Health - Currently 67.5% of Tasmanian's are overweight or obese. It is imperative that investment in sport be targeted for people to DO sport, not WATCH sport. A critical difference in achieving key health outcomes.
6. Sponsorship – since the Hurricanes and JackJumpers have emerged, small to mid-sized events and sports have experienced a drop in media and sponsorship. If an AFL team came to Tasmania, they will be a media and sponsorship factory, pulling corporate funding and attention from across all other sports around Tasmania.

I challenge the Tasmanian government to be more creative. Imagine if we quarantined that funding discussed for the stadium and AFL team in Tasmania to attract major events to Tasmania. We could host world class events across a plethora of sports, bringing in national and international entrants and spectators year round. If we were to increase community facilities for Tasmanian's to be more active, we would increase health outcomes and relief pressures on strained health services long term.

Hopefully this email is suffice for submission. Please let me know if you require any further details.

Cheers,

Richard Welsh



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I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we walk and work, and pay respect to the First Nations Peoples and their elders, past, present and future