

From: [Tom Lewis](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Subject: Submission / Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's process into the feasibility planning for a new sporting and event stadium in Hobart
Date: Friday, 10 February 2023 2:03:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
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Simon Scott
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000
By email: pac@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear sir,

Re: Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's process into the feasibility planning for a new sporting and event stadium in Hobart

As a long-term resident and business owner in Hobart, I appreciate this opportunity formally to register my strong opposition to the proposed Macquarie Point Stadium.

I know that others, with more relevant expertise than I, have and will provide specific, fact-based commentary. In this submission, I want to convey just how abhorrent this proposal is to me from a values perspective.

Nothing I have seen – in the business plan, in the media, from the government, in commentary from vested interests – gives me any comfort that this is a good idea.

The only people who seem to be voicing 'informed' support are those who are paid to do so or who stand to profit from the venture, whether it's viable or not. If these proponents were putting their own money in and putting their own assets and livelihoods at stake, rather than asking for government money to be wasted on this idea so they can profit or walk away as suits, then I may take their words more seriously. But really? As it stands, their words come across as worthless propaganda for something that stands to be a social, cultural, environmental and economic drain on Tasmania and Tasmanians for decades to come.

And where's the accountability? Again, if proponents personally stood to lose when the stadium turns out to be a bad investment, then maybe their thoughts and aspirations would carry more weight.

The actual 'idea' of a stadium in Tasmania is secondary to the proposed siting.

It's hard to think of a worse place in Tasmania for this thing.

The obvious congestion, traffic mayhem and loss of Macquarie Point - such a magnificent public asset - to such a bulky, ambience-destroying behemoth like the proposed stadium is just anathema to Hobart and the surrounding region. It's so against brand it's laughable.

From where I sit, the business case for a stadium, where-ever it may be sited, just doesn't stack

up.

Why would people spend scarce cash reserves to come to Tasmania to see acts they can see closer to home?

Why, oh why, do some people think it's a good idea for Tasmania to try to be like everyone else?

Why don't we use the public money that is available for such things to differentiate Tasmania, to play to our strengths, to attract people here for our Tasmanian-ness?

I look forward to the Committee's report.

Dr Tom Lewis
Director & Senior Consultant



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