



2 July 2025

The Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee for Public Works
Parliament of Tasmania
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Subject: Letter of Strong Support for the Proposed Glenorchy Sports Centre Project

Dear Honourable Members,

Volleyball Tasmania wishes to express its unequivocal and strong support for the proposed Glenorchy Sports Centre project. This submission is provided to the Infrastructure Tasmania Project Team as an attachment to their project submission. We believe this vital infrastructure development is not merely an amenity but a critical necessity for the continued growth, accessibility, and high-quality participation of volleyball in Southern Tasmania.

Our sport has experienced significant and sustained growth in the Southern region. Membership figures clearly demonstrate this trajectory, rising from **438 members in 2022, to 580 in 2023, and further to 617 in 2024**. This consistent increase highlights an exciting and expanding community that is rapidly outgrowing the capacity of existing facilities.

Currently, our programs, including our Club based Southern League, Southern Social Competitions, Indoor Schools Cup, Junior Development Program (JDP) training, and our Club and elite Echidnas Program, face severe limitations due to inadequate court availability and quality in Southern Tasmania.

For instance, our **Indoor Schools Cup**, a vital participation event for high school athletes, currently utilises seven courts. However, only three of these are full-sized, with a fourth full-sized court in the existing primary venue being partitioned into four badminton-sized courts for modified gameplay. This compromise limits the quality of play and stifles potential growth. The proposed Glenorchy Sports Centre, with its potential for **four full-sized competition courts (with required minimum clearance) and eight full-sized social courts (with reduced clearance)**, crucially, providing the necessary in-ground socket are installed during construction, would be transformative. This would enable the Schools Cup to expand and utilise up to eight full-sized courts, eliminating the need for modified gameplay and fostering a more authentic experience for young athletes.

Similarly, our **social competitions**, operating twice a week across three 12-week seasons annually in a constrained two-court venue, are at absolute capacity. We consistently cap entries at approximately 30 teams, and this still requires the teams to have multiple byes per season, which risks impact to player engagement and satisfaction.

Our **competitive Club competition**, an 18-week roster run twice a year in a three-court venue, consistently receives over 25 team entries. This demand forces us to limit games to 60-minutes to accommodate four timeslots from 6 pm, often resulting in play extending past 11 pm on a weeknight – a considerable barrier to participation and player well-being.

The challenge of limited access extends critically to our development and high-performance pathways. Our JDP training, Echidnas Program training, and Club training all share the same scarce venues. While we have secured some additional space in 2025, our ability to truly grow is severely hampered by restricted access. In a typical week, our JDP alone hires 16 hours in



a single two-court venue, with our Echidnas and Clubs collectively hiring another 20 hours in the same space, demonstrating the immense demand against severely limited supply.

The Glenorchy Sports Centre project is poised to alleviate some of these critical infrastructure deficits. It offers the capacity not only to accommodate our current programs more effectively but, crucially, to facilitate their much-needed growth. This will lead to:

- Expanded participation by allowing more teams and more players to play across all age groups and skill levels.
- Improved quality of play by providing access to appropriate full-sized courts with correct clearances.
- Enhanced player pathway with better and more accessible training environments for junior development and elite athlete progression.
- Sustainable programming from the ability to offer more flexible scheduling, potentially reducing late finishes and improving overall participant experience.
- The future potential to host a national event (junior or senior) which relies on enough viable venues to meet the court space requirements. The last time Volleyball Tasmania hosted a national junior event was in the 1980s.

Crucially, Volleyball Tasmania's support for this project is not solely based on the existence of appropriate facilities, but fundamentally on the **guarantee of equality of access** to them. It is imperative that the Tasmanian Government ensures that sports, particularly those like volleyball experiencing significant organic growth, are not excluded from equitable access to multi-sport community infrastructure.

In conclusion, the Glenorchy Sports Centre project represents an indispensable investment in the future of community sport in Southern Tasmania. For volleyball, it is a game-changer that will enable us to meet burgeoning demand, enhance program quality, and continue fostering healthy, active communities.

We look forward to the Committee's favourable consideration of this vital project and are available to provide any further information required.

Warm regards,

The Board
Volleyball Tasmania