



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

Hon. Ivan Dean MLC
 Chair
 Legislative Council Select Committee – AFL in Tasmania
 Parliament House
 HOBART TAS 7000

9 JUL 2019

Dear Mr ^{Ivan}Dean

As you are aware, the Tasmanian Government is committed to supporting the Australian Football League (AFL) in our State and provides significant resources to support games in Tasmania, as well as to supporting grassroots development of football in the State.

We have an integrated plan that seeks to support and enable the sport to thrive in the State at all levels, including being committed to securing our own AFL team for Tasmania.

We have put in place the Tasmanian Football Board (the Board) to unify the sport and strengthen local, grassroots football. We have also established a high-powered Tasmanian AFL License Taskforce (the Taskforce) to put together a comprehensive business case to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of an AFL Team for Tasmania and the AFL.

As you would be aware, Mr Jim Wilkinson has been appointed as independent Executive Chair to lead the Board which will provide direction and support for the growth and sustainability of football in Tasmania.

Membership of the Board includes Presidents/Chairs of each of the three regional senior and junior leagues, a representative of the Tasmanian State League clubs, a representative of the various umpires' associations, a representative of other regional leagues and associations and AFL Tasmania CEO, Trisha Squires.

Work of the Taskforce is already underway and the focus will be on demonstrating to the AFL Commission that the inclusion of a Tasmanian team would be financially sustainable, but would strengthen the AFL by making it a truly national competition.

An AFL team for Tasmania could have the potential to attract thousands more visitors to our State, injecting millions of dollars into our northern and southern communities, while at the same time propelling the Tasmanian brand into one of the broadest reaching national sporting platforms.

We have experienced first-hand the substantial benefits of hosting national and international sporting events at Blundstone and UTAS stadiums, and we welcome this highly skilled Taskforce to prepare a fresh and indisputable case to present to the AFL.

The establishment of the Taskforce has the support of the AFL administration, and is an important next step on the path to Tasmania being appropriately recognised and represented in the AFL and AFLW.

The Taskforce will produce a business case to support the attainment of a Tasmanian license in the AFL and AFLW. This includes the financial model and recommended organisational structure of a Tasmanian club that would meet AFL license requirements.

The business case will outline steps that need to be implemented in order to place Tasmania in a strong position to be granted an AFL license when one next becomes available.

The Taskforce will consult with Government, the Tasmanian Football Board, the AFL and the Tasmanian football community and I am confident the Tasmanian community will unite behind and support a Tasmanian team in the AFL and AFLW.

The Tasmanian Government welcomes the work of your Committee and would appreciate the sharing with any insight it uncovers through the process of seeking submissions.

Furthermore, the Government would be pleased to facilitate further discussions between the Committee, the Government, the Taskforce and the Board, if this assists with your deliberations.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Rockliff MP
Acting Premier