

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** PAC  
**Subject:** Submission against the proposed AFL stadium  
**Date:** Friday, 10 February 2023 11:09:36 AM

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I am against the proposed AFL Stadium at Macquarie Point for the following reasons:

The proposed stadium is simply too big in height and scale. It would dominate the harbour, river and foreshore.

The proposed stadium would eliminate the peaceful and serene, open-air, wide-view aspects of, and toward, the Cenotaph. The Cenotaph and memorial services would be overshadowed by the height and bulk of this stadium.

The heritage-listed goods shed, recently refurbished with plans in place for a 2,500sqm events area, would be demolished if the stadium goes ahead. The Longhouse, which the aboriginal Community has been developing as a meeting area with food gardens attached would be lost.

There has been no consultation with the community about this proposal. A packed Hobart Town Hall meeting, in November 2022, clearly showed that the residents do not want this stadium.

There's been no thorough, evidence-based analysis of the economic and social benefits to the community, comparing this proposal to other options for Macquarie Point.

Once the construction is finished, most stadiums generate only a few jobs because such sites are exceedingly under-used. Other options for Macquarie Point would provide more ongoing jobs, economic stimulus and improve the livability of Hobart.

The Government's stadium business case suggests the new stadium will host 7 AFL games per year, and yet the AFL dictates how and where the stadium should be built. The AFL is proposing to pay just 2% of the proposed total cost of \$750M+.

The Stadium business case finds only a 50 cent return for every dollar invested in the project (a Benefit Cost Ratio of 0.5), noting that "social infrastructure such as stadiums rarely return a Benefit Cost ratio above 1.0 and usually the economic costs will outweigh the identifiable and quantifiable economic benefits."

A cost-benefit analysis from MI Global Partners, commissioned by the Tasmanian government last year shows that the stadium will lose \$300 million over 20 years of operation. This does not include the costs of supporting an AFL team in the state.

The case does not properly look at upgrading the 19,000 seat Bellerive Oval. The average AFL attendances for the past 5 years at Bellerive have been:

2022 – 7,141  
2021 – 5,394  
2020 – 9,882  
2019 – 10,879  
2018 – 10,920

Simply put, a 19,000 seat stadium is quite adequate for years ahead.

With so much money (\$750m+) being spent on the stadium, it's likely that the state and federal governments would be forced to spend less than otherwise on health, housing, education, and public transport.

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**Your name:** Phil Dear  
**Your email:** [REDACTED]  
**Additional** I have supported AFL (Cats & then Swans) since the late 80s and

**comments::**

would love to see Tassie get an AFL licence but also understanding that two current AFL stadiums would, at some stage, require upgrading. I read the Hobart stadium case (and appendices) and found it completely underwhelming given its supposedly broad commercial and cultural attraction (i.e. other than AFL). It was almost completely devoid of any analysis of the opportunity cost for Tasmanians, (e.g. health, education, wages, other needed infrastructure) which will also benefit the Tassie economy. Now we are being told, that the 'opposers' will love the stadium once it's built. If it's such a great deal why isn't the private sector (including the AFL) rushing to seriously invest in it. It it looks and sounds like a 'pup', it most likely is.