

Rosemary Severs

29<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Simon Scott  
Committee Secretary  
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts  
Parliament House  
Hobart Tas 7000

**This Submission Refers to the Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's process into the Feasibility Planning for a new sporting and event stadium in Hobart.**

Dear Committee Members,

I wish you to take into consideration my views regarding the proposal to construct a new stadium at Macquarie Point.

1. I feel that Macquarie Point land could be better served as an area that would support activities every day of the year. Not the proposal that would have this structure only used 44 times a year. I think consideration should be made for a park land that could include the Truth & Reconciliation Art Park, a place for a sculpture park to celebrate Tasmania's many artists such as Marcus Tatton and many others. Central Park in New York comes to mind as a place that offers a place for everyone.
2. The height and size of the proposed Stadium will completely fill the Macquarie Point Area leaving no space for any other activities to be undertaken in that area. It will also be of a height and size that dominates the surrounds, particularly the Cenotaph.
3. Stadiums are not attractive buildings and until now many tourists visit here to see our lovely old buildings which still exist. The closest old building to the proposed stadium is the Royal Engineers building built in 1849 and currently being restored. I'm very aware of this because I'm a volunteer guide at TMAG and give special tours about the buildings that make up the TMAG complex, and the oldest buildings are those that elicit the greatest interest.
4. I would have thought that Blundstone Arena at Bellerive would be a big enough stadium for the crowds one would expect at most events, whether it is AFL matches or concerts, based on our population. After all, any big name performers would have already held concerts across Australia before they travelled down to Hobart. So mainland tourists are not likely to fly/drive down to us in Hobart to attend these concerts.
5. The cost of the proposed stadium will be more than \$1billion dollars, even if the current government quotes a lower figure. It is well known that big projects always end up costing much more than originally estimated. With interest rates rising, the costs associated with any loans taken out for the construction will be a cause for concern if Tasmanians are to be responsible for these loans.
6. Even if the government gets half the money from the Federal Government, the \$375,000 quoted could, I believe, be better spent in other ways, including other sporting activities. Facilities for young people and improved facilities for girls and women are often spoken & written about in the local media and the money being quoted to be spent as our (Tasmanians' taxes) contribution could be spread effectively and widely across our whole State. After all, right now we don't have an ice skating centre where sports such as figure

skating, ice hockey and curling could take place. Don't think that the sport of curling doesn't deserve a place. We lived in Nova Scotia and curling was a huge sport for all ages especially the older people who also played outdoor bowls or golf in summer.

7. Another consideration will be the traffic congestion that will occur when an event is on and when every person in the stadium leaves at the same time. There will definitely need to be a railway/tram facility which will add to the cost. Bellerive Arena with smaller capacity is often complained of but surely a ferry service to a new wharf adjacent to that Arena would be a cheaper option than the current proposal and could be used by others when events aren't on.
8. Why would this proposal go ahead when surveys show that less than a quarter of those surveyed wanted the Stadium at Macquarie Point.
9. The most appalling aspect of this whole stadium project was that we, Tasmanians, were told by the AFL chiefs that we had to have a covered stadium at Macquarie Point. Who do they think they are and how come the government kowtowed to this demand. To say I was furious doesn't come close to what I thought!

Yours sincerely,

***Rosemary Severs***

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