

Dear Committee Secretary

We, Dr Alasdair Martin and Dr Susan Ceri Reidpath Diamond, write to outline our extreme opposition to the proposed \$750 million stadium at Macquarie Point.

We object to public funding and high-value real estate being committed to this particular project, when there are thousands of Tasmanians whose lives could be improved, long-term and cross-generationally, with visionary investments aimed at broad public health initiatives that improve, among other things, access to safe and secure housing; suitable public transport; and cultural and community environments and activities; participation in education and training; and access to affordable material basics.

The AFL is not representative of the Tasmanian people. The AFL should not be enabled in holding Tasmanians to ransom by requiring that a new stadium is built before Tasmania is permitted to field an AFL team. No other state has been made to do this.

Tasmanians have not been consulted on the chosen site and we do not support the decision made by the government and foisted on Tasmanians. The government has not provided Tasmanians with a cost/benefits analysis of this project as compared to the cost/benefit of direct investment in the long-term global wellbeing, safety and security of all Tasmanian families and their children and young adults. Nor has the government provided any logical explanation for why our State should be burdened with further debt when the State already has two AFL-standard stadiums, one in the north and one in the south that will go to waste should AFL games be hosted in a new stadium.

Another sports stadium is the wrong priority for our State and a misuse of valuable public funds. In addition, Macquarie Point is real estate with a high public-access value for all Tasmanians, and as such should be used more thoughtfully to enhance public amenity of the harbour area for all users – not just those interested in sport. Furthermore, having recently experienced the exposure of Hobart's traffic system to catastrophic disruption, it would appear cavalier for the Government to create an environment of extremely high traffic congestion at the confluence of Hobart's north/south, and east/west traffic flow – at the convergence of Davey and Macquarie Streets, the Brooker Highway, and traffic off the Tasman Bridge.

We wish to register our vehement opposition to building a stadium on Macquarie Point, and to the contribution of public funds to such a project.

[Redacted]

8

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

20 January 2023.