

PUBLIC

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS MET IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, HOBART, ON MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023

INQUIRY INTO THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S PROCESS INTO THE PROPOSED ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS PRECINCT IN HOBART

The Committee met at 9:02 am.

CHAIR (Ms Forrest) - Welcome to the Public Accounts Committee. We are looking into the funding arrangements and the impact on the State's finances of the stadium and the proposed multi-purpose centre at Macquarie Point.

We have invited you here in response to a summons to provide a copy of the agreement. That is the purpose of this meeting. We probably won't have a lot of questions at this point, but you may have statements you wish to make.

Everything you say is covered by Parliamentary privilege while you are in front of this committee. I think you understand all those processes may not extend outside this meeting. If there are matters of a confidential nature you wish discuss with the committee, you can make that request and the committee will consider it. Do you have any other questions before we commence? No?

I will ask both of you to take the statutory declaration and then I invite you to speak to your invitation.

Mr BERNIE DWYER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TT-LINE PTY LTD (SPIRIT OF TASMANIA), AND **Mr MICHAEL GRAINGER**, CHAIRMAN, TT-LINE PTY LTD (SPIRIT OF TASMANIA) WERE CALLED, MADE THE STATUTORY DECLARATION, AND WERE EXAMINED.

CHAIR - As I said previously, we have summonsed you here to produce a copy of the North Melbourne funding agreement as part of our inquiry because this committee is looking all aspects of the financial implications of the Tasmanian AFL team deal and the Macquarie Point Precinct Stadium and everything as a consequence of all of that. I ask you to provide the document and make any comments you wish to make.

Mr DWYER - I have a copy of the document here and we are prepared to discuss components of the document to make it very clear to the committee what is in the funding agreement; but we need to do that in camera because it is a confidential document, obviously, with North Melbourne and ourselves. We do ask that we go in camera to have those discussions with you.

CHAIR - Sure. Mike, did you have anything to add?

Mr GRAINGER - No, nothing to add.

CHAIR - Okay. Do members feel we have enough information to make a decision on this? I will invite you two gentlemen to leave the room while we have some discussion. Did anyone want to ask any other questions before we close for deliberation?

PUBLIC

Mr GRAINGER - I mean, we are happy to do a page turn if that makes it easier for the Committee to understand.

CHAIR - In public or?

Mr GRAINGER - No, no, in camera so we can go page-by-page. I think we are here for two hours, is that correct?

CHAIR - We were not expecting it to take that long; but, yes.

Mr GRAINGER - I think that is what we have allowed, haven't we? It wouldn't take that long because most of the contract is made up of information that is largely irrelevant to the topic of this conversation. So, we are happy to go through it page-by-page and answer questions as we go, if that is what you would like to do.

CHAIR - Okay. Shane or Lara, any questions? No. Okay, would you two gentlemen just step outside if you would not mind. We will stop the broadcast while the committee deliberates.

The witnesses withdrew.

The Committee suspended from 9:05 am to 9:19 am.

The witnesses were recalled.

CHAIR - The Committee has resolved to hear your evidence in private. Actually, just confirming the time line, I think we gave you the two-hour time frame to make it easier for you to allocate at least half an hour to forty-five minutes to do this, being that the Committee expects to have the document to be able to peruse it and consider other questions at a later time should we need to.

Ms WEBB - Are we meant to be online or not or -

CHAIR - No, this is still in private, yes.

Ms WEBB - Okay, so we are not confirming that we are going in camera?

Mr GRAINGER - So you have to go to public.

CHAIR - Oh, I will, yes, okay. Welcome back. The Committee has resolved to take your evidence in private. We will then hear that evidence from you and then there may be further questions that flow from that at a later time. But at this stage the Committee will hear the evidence in private, so we will stop the broadcast.

IN CAMERA

...

IN CAMERA ENDED

PUBLIC

The committee suspended from 9:56 am to 10:00 am.

CHAIR - Thank you both, Mr Dwyer and Mr Grainger, for appearing before the Committee and producing the document requested. We appreciate that. The Committee will keep that in confidence as agreed. Thank you for the time today to go through some key elements of the agreement. Thank you.

Mr DWYER - Thank you.

Mr GRAINGER - Thank you.

The witnesses withdrew.

The Committee adjourned at 10:01 am.