

Submission to Public Works Committee (Chair Hon. Tania Rattray MLC)
re: Tasmania Jackjumpers High Performance Centre.
Parliament House, Hobart, Tas. 7000

This submission is made in the absence of "details of the proposed works". Twice I telephoned the designated number (October 7 and 8) and was unable to even leave a message!

I am astounded that the Tasmanian Government is even considering allocating taxpayers' funds towards this proposed venture.

My understanding is that the Tasmanian Jackjumpers:-

- is a privately-owned entity wholly owned and controlled by a single "shareholder",
- the single shareholder is a very wealthy (billionaire?),
- that single shareholder is not an Australian citizen, and
- during the 2023 / 2024 basketball season, with the exception of one member, every squad member and the coach were either foreign internationals or from interstate Australia.

Given the demand upon Tasmanian taxpayers' funds for health, education, emergency services, why would any Tasmanian wish to divest funds to this venture?

Arguments that the Jackjumpers draw in significant government funds are fanciful and fatuous.

There are also widespread community impressions that the "deal" given the Jackjumpers in relation to transfer of the Derwent Entertainment Centre (a Tasmanian-taxpayer-funded facility) and surrounding waterfront land was generous towards the Jackjumpers and to the detriment of taxpayers. An inquiry is probably needed.

The issue of Tasmanian Government (via itself and through several of its agencies) "recurrent sponsorship" of the

Jackjumpers:- I have been advised that Tasmanian taxpayers, via its Government, contribute \$2 million p.a. Further, there are clearly contributions from spirit of Tasmania, Taswater, Metro - and others? University of Tasmania also appears to have made contributions. This may well total \$5 million in cash and kind. All to a foreign institution!

Tasmania has a real challenge in obtaining and retaining nurses, teachers, etc. \$5 million could fund 167 studentships to train such people at \$30,000 p.a. This would pay fees and student resources as well as an annual living allowance of about \$22,000. Students would have an obligation - one year of work for each year of study.

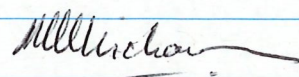
Over 4 years, would Tasmanians prefer 167 nurses and teachers in our hospitals and schools, or sponsorship of a foreign-owned institution?

One could imagine all such sponsorship being used to train our young people. From all walks of life.

To return to a high performance centre; press reports indicate that the Jackjumpers have a preference for public land in, say, Kingborough. Such land is public land - for current or future public use.

Such arguments apply to other private use of public land.

I respectfully request that these considerations be taken into account.



Robert G. Richardson

October 6, 2024

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Mercury

Oct 5, 2014

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

The Committee has received the undermentioned proposed public works to consider and report thereon:

- **Tasmania Jackjumpers High Performance Centre**

The Committee will be conducting a public hearing in relation to this reference on Thursday, 7 November next and invites interested individuals and organisations to lodge submissions by Monday, 28 October next with: **The Secretary, Public Works Committee, Parliament House, Hobart, TAS, 7000** or email: publicworks@parliament.tas.gov.au

Submissions become Committee documents and are published by resolution of the Committee. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are protected by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not. The Committee is unable to take confidential submissions. The Committee encourages the lodgement of submissions in electronic form. All submissions must include the submitter's name only; to protect a submitter's privacy, the submission should not contain the submitter's contact details. A separate covering letter must accompany all submissions, and must contain the name, phone number, postal and email address of the submitter. Information on the role of the Public Works Committee is available at:

<https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/joint-committees/standing-committees/pwc>.

Guidance for the preparation of a submission is available at:

<https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/making-a-written-submission>, or by phoning the Secretary on (03) 6212 2248.

Enquiries regarding the details of the proposed works should be directed to Steven de Haan, Phone (03) 6166 4916.

Hon Tania Rattray MLC
CHAIR