

Representation against the Proposed AFL Stadium in Hobart



I am making this submission against the proposed AFL Stadium at Macquarie Point for many reasons, the first being the lack of proper process for making the plan and announcing the proposal which appears to have been driven by the perceived importance of Tasmania having its own AFL team, and this being a condition imposed by the AFL.

Most of the pictures released to the public show the stadium with lights etc taken from above. This is not a realistic picture for those of us who walk in the area. What would the stadium look like from ground level and how would it affect all the other uses that were proposed for the area?

From any plans that have been available it looks as if the huge structure would dominate the whole area and destroy the ambience of the waterfront area, including the Cenotaph, a place that many Tasmanians hold sacred.

No climate-related reports have been published and sea level rise must be publicly addressed before any decision is made.

We anticipated some affordable housing, a pleasant relaxing garden in which to escape the city. The Chinese garden at Darling Harbour is a wonderful example of such a quiet space within a city. Also there were plans for an Antarctic precinct and even a sustainability centre such as a dome garden.

There were plans for a 2,500sq m events area heritage-listed goods shed,, and this would have to be demolished if the stadium goes ahead. Also, the aboriginal community has been developing the Longhouse, as a meeting area with food gardens attached and if it were lost through building a huge stadium, this would demonstrate contempt for our aboriginal community when so much remains to be learned from that community.

The evidence for the economic and social benefits to the Tasmanian community have not been convincing and the stadium could end up as a white elephant, hosting a few games each year – at great expense to the tax-payer with crowds that could have been contained in an existing stadium. It has been promoted as an arts/cultural venue for large events. However, the cost of transport to Tasmania, as well as the logistics, are major deterrents to organisers of such events.

The economic state of Tasmania, with housing shortages and population growth (do the new residents want to go to AFL matches?) and so few job vacancies requires a major re-think of the future of Tasmania. No decision should be made to spend \$750 million (plus?) without a comprehensive and publicly viable plan for options for its expenditure.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important issue which must not be driven by the AFL.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Smith BSc PhD, Grad Dip Env Planning