

From: [Philip Stigant](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Subject: Inquiry into planned Stadium Macquarie Point
Date: Tuesday, 3 January 2023 11:59:19 AM

Dear Committee,

I wish to add my voice in opposition to the Stadium this government has announced it plans to build at Macquarie Point in Hobart.

I have to say I'm a bit slow off the mark on this because for a long time I thought it was just a distraction designed to cover up other controversial decisions. It just seemed too ridiculous for words. Allow me to list the reasons (in no particular order):

1. We already have two stadiums that have for a number of years hosted AFL matches. Both have had significant expenditure in recent years. York Park has been earmarked for a further multi million dollar upgrade.

2. A principal reason given for building this stadium has been that it is a condition of entry into the AFL competition. I don't believe any other team has been given such an expensive and onerous condition for entry into the competition. To an outsider (I am not an Aussie Rules fan) it looks like a classic case of bullying behaviour by the AFL management. If Tasmania gives in to this we will always get a raw deal from the AFL. This is how bullies work. We should never give in to bullies. To do so in this instance would be shameful and is exactly the wrong message to send our young people.

If the objective is to get a Tasmanian team in the AFL it would be far cheaper to take them to court for misleading advertising. They are not currently an Australia wide competition. For that they would need a Tasmanian team.

In any event despite AFL teams being regionally named they are no longer regional teams. Players are drafted from all over Australia, so when the hype dies down the new team would not be Tasmanian in any real sense.

3. The cost to the community is projected to be enormous. The money the State puts in is money lost to health, housing and other areas in dire need of funding. Many politicians like to pretend that money coming from the Federal government is a boost to the state and so if we can get them on board we will be better off. What some fail to acknowledge is that if the Federal Government do contribute \$X to this then we will get \$X less from them for other things. There are quite a few other things we may be wanting them to contribute to. Light rail to the northern suburbs springs to mind.

4. It is in the wrong place. If we were to build a new stadium in Tasmania there are far better places to put it. The planned location would cause gridlocked traffic every time the stadium was at or near capacity and the parking issues don't bear thinking about. The business case does not address parking, traffic or how patrons are expected to get to and from the stadium. I would posit that is because there are no easy solutions to those issues for a stadium in this location. It would be somewhat easier at the alternative locations of Wilkinsons Pt, Bridgewater or Perth. Demographically Perth is probably the better choice. It would also for a little while give a home ground advantage as it would confuse visiting teams.

5. Macquarie Point had been planned for multiple use including a lot of public space. There will be little room for that with a stadium plonked on the greater part of it. It would kill it as a cultural precinct.

6. The "business case": I have never seen such a thin and insubstantial document put forward to justify such a large investment. It contains lots of assertions but little supporting evidence. Even so it does acknowledge that this project would struggle to break even.

7. Climate change: This proposal is a big bet on people travelling to Hobart to watch a game of football for a long time into the future. It would therefore make sense to ask just how plausible this is decades from now. We know that climate change is starting to bite and that governments in Australia and overseas are being forced to take action to limit CO2 emissions. Net zero by 2050 (earlier if we are to avoid the worst) would make aviation a very expensive luxury. There is every chance that few fans would be able to afford to fly to a game.

8. Supporters of the project point to its supposed ability to boost the visitor economy. We should consider whether this is really desirable from a community perspective. We currently have a dire housing shortage, high rents and house prices so high many young Tasmanians have little hope of ever buying their own home. In this context expanding the visitor economy whilst a commercial benefit for some would be to the detriment of

many.

For all of the above reasons I urge you to find that this proposal is not in the interests of the Tasmanian people football fans included.

Yours Sincerely
Philip Stigant

[REDACTED]
Tasmania
[REDACTED]