

From: [Patrick](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Subject: My submission
Date: Friday, 16 December 2022 5:16:55 PM

Dear Committee Secretary

I write to outline my opposition to the proposed \$750 million stadium at Macquarie Point.

When Adelaide Oval was upgraded, there was no requirement by the AFL for it to be roofed - AFL is a Winter game. Similarly, no other teams joining the AFL have required a roofed stadium, nor been required to ignore two already-in-use AFL ovals. It was a farce for the government to ever accept such a ludicrous proposal. If the AFL considers Blundstone Arena and UTAS Stadium acceptable, there cannot be any reason for another stadium to be required.

Regardless of this, the stadium should never be placed at Macquarie point. Traffic in central Hobart is already appalling. It is literally impossible for this stadium's generated traffic to drain anywhere except onto what are already some of Hobart's most congested streets. Additionally, given the location, it is likely that this proposal would build over the railway corridor to Macquarie point, locking out any potential of future reinstatement of railway services to the city of Hobart, despite buses clearly being insufficient to service Hobart's increasingly populous outer reaches. The site would also likely overshadow Hobart's Cenotaph, which is disgraceful for the State's main war memorial.

Furthermore, UTAS Stadium is in need of upgrades/repairs already. With \$750 million being directed to a new stadium, where would any funding come from for this? Furthermore, building a new stadium at Bellerive was ruled out, as the site was deemed too small. A larger capacity stadium could easily be built at UTAS Stadium by replacing the rear grandstands with double-level ones, yet this apparently has never been considered by the government nor AFL - despite York Park (UTAS Stadium) being the original AFL-use stadium in the state. This proposal also presents a risk of the AFL refusing to play games at UTAS Stadium, as despite the government promising continued games in the North of the state, there has been no such promise or guarantee by the AFL. If the State Government is already failing to maintain our existing stadium infrastructure, how can the government be expected to maintain another, larger stadium? The AFL also seems to be operating off of the idea that a larger stadium will generate more profit - but this won't apply if more people don't attend the games, and as it stands, it seems like most Tasmanians wouldn't switch their support over to a new Tasmanian team even if the state does get one.

I strongly oppose the idea of building a new stadium. It is a waste of money that very few Tasmanians support, as has been shown in surveys. AFL games were previously always played solely in Launceston, and now are played in Hobart too, so with two stadiums, there can be no reason to require a new one. It has been argued by the Premier that the stadium will generate income and growth for the state. I doubt this. Like UTAS Stadium, it will sit empty most of the year with no purpose, wasting expenses to maintain it - a cost which is higher for a roofed stadium. As a business, the AFL should not be catered to or funded by the government in any respect, and certainly should not be in any position to coerce the State Government into blindly building a stadium to satisfy an unjust and unwarranted requirement for a state AFL team.

Sincerely,
Patrick Tavasci, 