

From: [R. Cassidy](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION
Date: Friday, 16 December 2022 5:08:35 PM

Dear Mr Simon Scott, Committee Secretary,
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts

I am strongly opposed to the proposed \$750 million stadium at Macquarie Point. Why?

- I am certain it has been underestimated to dupe the gullible public and merely to entice investors.
- A lot of money has been promised by the Liberal government, so it is not merely \$750 million for a stadium. See these links-

<https://www.theage.com.au/sport/afl/tasmanian-government-s-bold-150m-bid-for-afl-team-revealed-20220526-p5aoui.html>

<https://www.foxsports.com.au/afl/afl-news-2022-expansion-into-tasmania-19th-team-hobart-macquarie-point-stadium-funding-afl-commission-gillon-mclachlan/news-story/632e8159a67f88e8ea8df8aedb2dc99a>

- So, the truth of the matter when all is said and done it will have cost \$1 billion to attract an AFL team and build a stadium at Macquarie Point. I I will be dead and buried before Tasmania might see any return on its investment.
- That kind of money would be better spent lengthening and strengthening and widening the Hobart Airport runway, building a second story on the terminal building to accommodate airbridges. As a retired airline transport pilot, who has flown to 47 countries, I can tell you I have seen better capitol city airports in the developing world. Port Moresby has airbridges and covered walkways, for example. Having a first world capitol city airport would greatly improve tourism and permit export of Tasmanian produce and products, via direct flights covering 15,000km, if that \$1 billions was invested in the airport.
- Tasmania has many telecommunications blackspots, where there is no telephone or internet service. Whilst one Telstra tower costs \$1 million the planned \$1 billion spend for an AFL team and stadium could benefit all of Tasmania if it were spent on reducing telecommunications blackspots.
- \$1billion should be spent on setting up a scholarship and a contract for new GPs and Registered Nurses and Paramedics to be trained at UTAS, but must serve their first 5 years in rural Tasmania, considering more than 55,000 Tasmanians are on the health waiting list to see a specialist and we cannot get a GP at Ouse Medical Clinic and many others throughout the state.
- The homeless and impoverished need social housing. How far would \$1 billion go toward building it?
- The Midland Highway should be made a true four lane highway from Launceston to the new Bridgewater Bridge.
- The Marlborough Highway between Miena and Bronte Park needs to be upgraded and sealed, as it is a majot tourist route that cuts 30 minutes to and hour off driving times to and from the West Coast. That will not cost as much as it would to build a covered stadium.
- Fares should be subsidised on the Spirit of Tasmania, to increase tourism in both directions.
- Traffic is already egregiously congested on the Tasman Bridge, Southern Outlet,

Macquarie and Davey Streets and the Brooker Highway. How much more congested will traffic be building a stadium? Driving to Hobart past the Derwent Entertainment Centre, when there is a game on or just finished causes commuter traffic along the Brooker Highway to back up as game traffic enters or exits the DEC, at the traffic light that already has a short interval.

- Why should a stadium dominate the cenotaph and grounds surrounding it? Will a game take priority over any solemn ceremonies?
- The government has not presented a business case that outlines the merits of this project or explained why our state should be burdened with further debt when the state already has two AFL standard stadiums, one in the north and one in the south that will now go to waste. Another stadium is the wrong priority for our state.
- How much will tickets cost a family of four, in the 'cheap seats', plus snacks and drinks during the game? Add that to their cost round trip driving from Smithton, Burnie, Scottsdale, or Nubeena or Southport at well over \$2.00/L petrol and they would be up for significantly over \$1,500 to attend a game. Do you really believe the average Tasmanian family can afford such luxury? So, will a new stadium benefit Tasmanians or the AFL executives, their wives, and cashed up folks from the mainland?

As a taxpayer, I strongly object to any taxpayer money funding this nonsense, when Tasmania has much higher priorities to spend \$1 billion on. 'Mercury' spin and evening news broadcasts do not constitute public consultation. Numbers bandied about in the media is not a genuine business case that outlines the merits of this project or explained why our state should be burdened with further debt when the state already has two AFL standard stadiums, one in the north and one in the south that will now go to waste. A new covered stadium is the wrong priority for our state.

Sincerely,
Robert Cassidy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TAS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]