

From: [lesley wickham](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Subject: Macquarie Point Stadium
Date: Saturday, 17 December 2022 1:43:26 PM

Dear Committee Secretary

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

What Hobart needs at present, more than a new sports ground, is the cultural precinct and open space which has been planned for Macquarie Point for a number of years. The previous plan, which provided a cultural and scientific precinct, had the potential not only to provide educational and recreational space for Tasmanians and visitors but to extend and modernise Tasmania's leading position in marine and Antarctic science, a claim to fame not shared by any other State. This State's future would be enhanced by the year-round benefits of such a development and it certainly gives the State a tourism advantage over other States which do not boast such facilities.

As a taxpayer I object to public funding going towards this project when thousands of Tasmanians can't get a home, more than 55,000 Tasmanians are on the health waiting list to see a specialist and the cost of living is making life harder for more and more Tasmanians. Our hospitals should certainly be a priority for such spending, not to mention our schools, public transport and infrastructure.

Despite claims to the contrary, the stadium will not be a suitable space for other types of activity and, like the Blundstone Arena across the river, will spend much of its time empty and silent. The size of the proposed stadium begs the question whether we will ever attract sufficient people to a match to fill it and, if we did, how would they all get there? We already have traffic chaos in the city when there is a major event or even simply a wet day. There is no parking adequate to provide for the numbers in question and there is no public transport to get them to their destination.

Visually, the stadium proposed is an eyesore and has far less appeal than the precinct which it is mooted to replace.

The AFL shouldn't be making Tasmanians pay for a new roofed stadium to have our own Tasmanian team. No other state has been made to do this. Tasmanians have not been consulted on the chosen site and I do not support the decision made by the government.

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.

Kind regards
Lesley Wickham

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