

From: [Wendy Fountain](#)
To: [PAC](#)
Subject: Submission: Hobart Stadium
Date: Friday, 10 February 2023 8:15:49 AM

Dear Committee Secretary,

We write to state our opposition on three key grounds to the proposed stadium at Macquarie Point with an estimated cost of \$750 million.

The first is the undemocratic nature of the AFL organisation making Tasmania's entry to the AFL contingent on the construction of the roofed stadium. This is an excessive and inappropriate exercise of power by a non-representative body; why should the AFL determine how such a large quantity of state and federal taxpayer money be spent?

Second, the inability of the Tasmanian state to meet the basic needs of its current population for health, housing and education is amply documented at a time of rising living costs and greater competition for services by an ageing population. There is no equivalent level of expenditure (\$375 million committed) by the government to address these current basic needs, let alone plan for those associated with Tasmania's growing population into the future.

The business case summary for the stadium, commissioned by the State Government, estimates a net loss of \$306 million – or 'negative benefits' as stated – over a 20-year evaluation period (MI Global Partners, 2022, p.26). The business case can also be judged to be conservative in under-estimating the typical 'blow-out' costs of similar scale infrastructure projects which will further indebt Tasmanian taxpayers well beyond the 20-year analysis period.

Our third objection is the concerning way the State Premier (and other proponents) are exercising strong parochialism and sporting fanaticism in their arguments for the stadium. This conduct too is non-representative. Not all Tasmanians derive their civic and community pride via the AFL, or other elite sporting or arts events. The value proposition for the majority of Tasmanians is not the same as the Premier's: many Tasmanians will never attend or benefit from the Hobart Stadium and yet the social and economic conditions in which they live will be negatively impacted long-term by the project.

Kind regards,

Drs Wendy Fountain and Roger Proctor, [REDACTED]

Source: MI Global Partners (11 November, 2022). Hobart Stadium. Cost-Benefit Analysis Report – Final Report. Accessed at: https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/Transport_and_Infrastructure/major_stadiums/Tasmanias_new_Arts_Entertainment_and_Sports_Precinct_Macquarie_Point_Hobart

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