

24 November 2023

Simon Scott
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts
Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Mr Scott,

Re: Inquiry into Tasmanian Government's process into the proposed Arts, Entertainment and Sports Precinct in Hobart

We provide this submission as a group of stakeholders who are impacted by the Macquarie Point Precinct Plan. In particular, our submission is most relevant to Item 2 of the Inquiry terms of reference: *the suitability of Macquarie Point as the site for a proposed Arts, Entertainment and Sports Precinct.*

Between us, we represent \$80 million in direct revenues, 713 employees, and 270,000 travelling visitors, customers, audiences, and precinct users per year. Collectively, we operate and/or occupy key state assets in the area including Federation Concert Hall, Henry Jones Art Hotel, Macq01, Hotel Grand Chancellor and the TSO Film, Recording and Rehearsal Studios.

Given the significance of our combined contribution to the cultural life and economy of the precinct, city, and state, it is disappointing that the process has not included any consultation with us about the development of a stadium on Evans Street at Macquarie Point. Inevitably, any new stadium will have a major impact on our respective enterprises yet none of us have managed to secure a conversation with project proponents.

We are all supporters of an AFL team for Tasmania and have no objection to the premise of a stadium. However, its location on this particular site and its proximity to such historic, culturally important, and acoustically sensitive assets are of course another matter.

Our issues of concern include:

- Impact on acoustically sensitive spaces including the State Concert Hall, State Theatre, Hedberg and State Museum and TSO film, recording and rehearsal facilities – which collectively operate day and night, 7 days per week
- Noise during construction and operation
- Loss of amenity during construction and operation
- Degraded customer experience during construction and operation
- General amenity post-construction including overbearing sightlines, shade lines, security – particularly on existing and proposed Tasmanian assets owned and operated by Federal Group in Evans and Hunter Streets, and Federation Concert Hall
- Traffic flow, parking, and impact of road closures on access to premises

We feel ill-equipped to provide any detailed comments on the suitability of the site in the absence of documentation detailing the impact of development and operation on all existing assets and impacted stakeholders.

To provide any definitive comment, we would need to see specialist assessments from the following consultants:

Specialist Consultant	Impact Assessment
Acoustic Engineer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operating noise impact (from the stadium and precinct activities) 2. Construction noise impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>A comprehensive environmental noise assessment and consequential impact on acoustically sensitive spaces within the vicinity of the stadium</i> o <i>An independent review of current noise policy and its applicability to this development in this location (and what legislation should be adopted to protect existing assets)</i>
Traffic Engineer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traffic Flow 2. Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Impact of road closures including access to premises during construction and operation</i>
Town Planner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amenity and business continuity for adjacent business during construction
Urban Planner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amenity after construction including visitor experience and security across Henry Jones Art Hotel, Macq01, Federation Concert Hall, Hotel Grand Chancellor, The Hedberg, and Theatre Royal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Specialist shadowing impact and set-back in relation to the existing buildings and associated amenities</i>

The suitability of Macquarie Point as the site for a proposed Arts, Entertainment and Sports Precinct remains unknown at best in the absence of the analysis above. This is of significant concern given the potential impact on existing cultural, hospitality and tourism assets which are significant contributors to the precinct, city, and state.

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare this submission. We are all available to provide further context as required and information as required.

Yours sincerely,



Richard England,
Acting Chair, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra

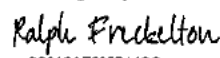


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