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**VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA.**  
**TASMANIA BRANCH Inc.**  
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2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

**Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's process into the feasibility planning for a new sporting and event stadium in Hobart.**

I am writing to express our deep concern over the Tasmanian Government's proposal to build an approved AFL Stadium at Macquarie Point (Mac Point). Our association is concerned that should a stadium of the size and height being proposed for Mac Point be built, it would have a direct impact on the ambience of the Cenotaph, notably during important commemorative services.

The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia – Tasmania Branch (VVAA-TAS) does not support the building of a stadium at Mac Point.

**Background.**

The Hobart Cenotaph was erected on the site of the former Queen's Battery, Hot Shot Oven and Hobart Rivulet Domain Diversion Tunnel in 1925. The site of the Hobart War Memorial was chosen specifically for its clear and obvious location, which would make it a focal point for the city and constantly remind its citizens of the debt it owed to war veterans. The Mercury reported that it occupied –

*“a conspicuous position on the Queen's Domain, almost in line with Macquarie Street, and visible from most parts of the city. The memorial is particularly conspicuous from the harbour, from any part of which it is clearly visible”.*

The Hobart Cenotaph is of historical heritage significance as it has special symbolic, spiritual, cultural and social meaning for the entire Tasmanian community, in particular for the Returned Service men and women and their families. The Cenotaph continues to be a highly important and symbolic site for Tasmanians with numerous commemorative services held there every year.

The Cenotaph offers uninterrupted views from the site down the River Derwent, to the city of Hobart and to Mount Wellington. Original guidelines for the siting and erection of the Cenotaph, held by the Hobart City Council are supported in the Hobart Cenotaph Conservation Assessment: January 2001, which states that -

*“No development of structures or plantings, which detracts from the open setting or obscures the Cenotaph from any currently visible part of Hobart (including the eastern shore) should be permitted”.*

These views offer peaceful solemnity for Tasmanians and veterans and their families when they gather at the cenotaph, in reflection, to remember lost loved ones and the sacrifice of so many. The building of a large concrete stadium at Mac Point will take away those views, and, in doing so, will diminish the spiritual serenity of the Cenotaph, which was the intent of our City forefathers. Tasmanians, veterans and visitors will instead be looking directly at a concrete structure in very close proximity to the Cenotaph.

Even visiting large cruise ships, when docked alongside Macquarie Wharf, block out the views from the Cenotaph down the Derwent River and the Hobart docks area. A stadium of the size being proposed, built much closer to the Cenotaph and on higher ground than the wharf, will have a direct, disturbing impact on all those visiting the Cenotaph to reflect in peaceful surroundings in solemn contemplation and remembrance.

Parking.

With no vehicle parking facilities included in the proposed Stadium plans, we assume that many cars will use the Domain for parking, adjacent to the Cenotaph. This will lead to hundreds, if not thousands, of people accessing the stadium via the Cenotaph War Memorial precinct. The possibility of intoxicated and rowdy people returning to their vehicles after a game or event, through the sacred grounds of the Cenotaph, poses a real threat to the integrity of the Cenotaph, the Eternal Flame of Remembrance and to the Victoria Cross memorials.

Can you assure our association and the veteran community that these concerns to protect and preserve this important historic precinct and its aspect, will be taken into consideration and give our association a guarantee that any stadium built on any part of Mac Point will not impede the views for which the site was originally chosen?

On behalf of our association I look forward to being included in and kept updated on future developments.



Terry Roe  
State President  
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia-Tasmania Branch Inc.