



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

30 June 2023

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC  
Chair  
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts  
Email: [pac@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:pac@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Attention: Committee Secretary

Dear Ms Forrest

I refer to your letters of 2 June 2023 and 26 June 2023 concerning the Public Accounts Committee's ongoing inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Proposed Arts, Entertainment and Sports Precinct at Macquarie Point.

The Committee has requested the production of specific documents and, separately, answers to questions taken on notice at the 23 June 2023 public hearing. The requests require extensive work to be undertaken by my office and relevant Departments. However, I am pleased to be able to provide many of the requested documents today and advise on the progress of producing the others. I also reiterate my commitment to providing the remainder of the information requested, where possible and once available.

I note that given the size of some of the documents requested, my Office will provide these on a USB to the Committee Secretary at 9:00am on 3 July 2023, as discussed with you.

I also acknowledge the transparent approach of my Government in providing this information, a level of detail that is not usually provided to the Committee.

**Production of Documents Request: 2 June 2023**

As advised in my letter of 20 June 2023, due to the extensive nature of the request and the requirement for third-party consultation, an extension on some elements is required. Despite this, best endeavours have been used to ensure that as many documents as possible could be provided to the Committee Secretary today.

I advise that some confidentiality concerns have been raised through the third-party consultation on the basis that the information in scope is commercially sensitive or its disclosure would cause unreasonable detriment to either party.

While I consider that the confidentiality concerns can be addressed practically with the Public Accounts Committee, I respectfully request that the Public Accounts Committee receive and treat certain information in confidence per Section 7(4) of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*.

Attachment A provides a list of the documentation provided and specifies the documents I am requesting be kept confidential by the Committee and the basis for that request.

In summary, the documents provided today relate to points one to four and point ten of the request. The various documents are included as Attachments B to G.

In relation to point one of the information request, the Club Funding and Development Agreement has been provided fully unredacted. As outlined on the disclosure page of the Club Funding and Development Agreement, published on the Department of State Growth's website, the AFL and AFLW Licence Agreements and Ground Occupancy Agreements have been redacted. The Licence Agreements included a range of AFL documents, such as its competition rules, regulations, and constitution which can be found in the public domain on the AFL's website. I also note that Tasmanian Government is not the signing party for either of the AFL or AFLW Licence Agreement. However, all conditions that relate to the Tasmanian Government in the Licence Agreements have been disclosed.

In relation to point three, the Crown is not a party to the agreement with the North Melbourne Football Club for the provision of AFL games. The parties are the TT-Line Company Pty Ltd and the North Melbourne Football Club. I do not hold these documents in my possession, and as the TT-Line Company is a State-owned Company (and not a part of the Government), I do not have any basis for gathering documents from that company. Such a request would need to be made directly to TT-Line by the Committee.

In relation to point four, a funding agreement is yet to be entered into with the Federal Government for the \$240 million for the Macquarie Point precinct and \$65 million for UTAS Stadium. I have included a letter from the Hon Catherine King MP confirming the funding and the Australian Government's expectation for the site. I understand that high-level discussions are underway between senior officials, and the Federal Government will produce a draft agreement in the coming months.

In relation to points five to seven, these matters relate to the Macquarie Point Development Corporation. Those documents are not in my possession, and I do not have any general right of access to the documents of the Corporation. However, I have referred the relevant information requests to the Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing (as the Minister is responsible) and asked him to make best endeavours to respond directly to the Committee Secretary by 7 July 2023.

In relation to points eight and nine, I am advised that initial searches for communications have returned an extensive number of records that need to be considered for confidentiality concerns in consultation with affected third parties. Based on this and the general voluminous nature of the documents, this information cannot be provided today. I also note that clarification on the relevant timeframes, as sought in my letter of 20 June 2023, has yet to be provided. As such, I have asked my office and relevant Departments to use their best endeavours to provide this information by 14 July 2023.

In relation to point ten, the request relates to any other agreements related to the proposed precinct and training and administration facility. The Ground Occupancy Agreement, which is included as schedule 6 of the unredacted Club Funding and Development Agreement) is considered in scope. However, it was redacted in full, given that it remains under negotiation and has yet to be finalised. While the 'Ground Occupancy Agreement' is not an agreement in its own right, I consider that it is a part of the Club Funding Agreement and as such, it has been provided under the first point.

#### **Questions on Notice: 26 June 2023**

Thank you for providing the questions taken on notice at the Committee's public hearing on Friday, 23 June 2023. While I am committed to providing the information requested in your letter, I highlight

that due to the extensive nature of the request and the Committee's previous request, an extension on some elements may be required.

I am advised that some of the requested information contains commercially sensitive third-party information, and the Government will need to notify these parties that their information will be provided to the Committee.

Despite this, best endeavours will be used to ensure that as much information as possible can be provided to the Committee Secretary by close of business Friday, 7 July 2023.

Further, to assist in the timely provision of the requested documents, can the Committee please provide clarification in relation to question on notice three.

I look forward to receiving this information, and the other documents, as soon as practicable but by no later than 21 July 2023.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rockliff'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP  
**Premier**

Enclosed:

- Attachment A – Document list and requests for confidentiality
- Attachment B.1 - SIGNED - Club Funding and Development Agreement
- Attachment B.2 - Club Constitution Schedule 2 - Constitution - Tasmanian Team FINAL
- Attachment B.3 - AFL Licence Agreement Schedule 3 - Funding and Development Agreement - Tasmania Team FINAL
- Attachment B.4 - AFLW Licence Agreement Schedule 4 - Funding and Development Agreement - AFLW Licence Agreement - Tasmania Team FINAL
- Attachment B.5a - Licence Agreement Schedule 5 - Venue Guidelines - Part 1
- Attachment B.5b - Licence Agreement Schedule 5 - Venue Guidelines - Part 2
- Attachment B.6 - Funding Agreement Schedule 6 - New Hobart Stadium - Ground Occupancy Agreement FINAL
- Attachment C - Hobart Stadium Optimisation Analysis - Final Report V2
- Attachment D - Hobart Stadium CBA Final Report
- Attachment E.1 - Crown Agreement - Hawthorn Football Club 2023-2025
- Attachment E.2 - Tripartite Agreement (HFC, AFL, DSG)
- Attachment F - Crown Agreement - North Melbourne AFLW 2023-2025
- Attachment G – Letter from the Hon Catherine King MP to Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP - Australian Government funding to support the redevelopment of Macquarie Point precinct in Hobart and upgrades to UTAS Stadium in Launceston.

**PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

**Attachment A – Document list and requests for confidentiality**

Description	Request	Reasons
<b>PAC Information Request 1: Club Funding and Development Agreement</b>		
Attachment B.1 - SIGNED - Club Funding and Development Agreement	Largely published. Request that current redactions are retained	<p>Commercial in confidence.</p> <p>The negotiation between the AFL and Tasmanian Government on the Funding and Development Agreement was undertaken based on those negotiations being commercial in confidence.</p> <p>However, the AFL is comfortable for the majority of clauses to be released on the basis that the majority of the information in those clauses is already in the public domain or the AFL will not suffer material detriment by the release of those clauses.</p> <p>The AFL considers that the publication of any of the clauses not listed above will cause detriment to the AFL. Given the contract has been heavily negotiated, the release of the negotiated position of the AFL may be detrimental to future negotiations of the AFL with third parties.</p> <p>There is also significant commercial information included in those provisions that are not listed above which, if published, may prejudice the future negotiating position of the AFL and the Tasmanian Government on similar documents, and could disrupt or prejudice relationships the parties have in respect of similar arrangements now or in the future.</p> <p>Attachments B.2 to B.5b (and B.6) all form part of the Club Funding and Development Agreement.</p>
Attachment B.2 - Club Constitution Schedule 2 - Constitution - Tasmanian Team FINAL	Already published	
Attachment B.3 - AFL Licence Agreement Schedule 3 - Funding and Development Agreement - Tasmania Team FINAL	Licence conditions already published. Request that current redactions are retained	
Attachment B.4 - AFLW Licence Agreement Schedule 4 - Funding and Development Agreement - AFLW Licence Agreement - Tasmania Team FINAL	Licence conditions already published. Request that current redactions are retained	
Attachment B.5a - Licence Agreement Schedule 5 - Venue Guidelines - Part 1	Retain confidentiality in full	
Attachment B.5b - Licence Agreement Schedule 5 - Venue Guidelines - Part 2	Retain confidentiality in full	

# PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

## Attachment A – Document list and requests for confidentiality

Description	Request	Reasons
Attachment B.6 - Funding Agreement Schedule 6 - New Hobart Stadium - Ground Occupancy Agreement FINAL	Retain confidentiality in full	<p>In addition to the above considerations, the Ground Occupancy Agreement remains subject to negotiation and is not considered final by the parties.</p> <p>It contains commercial in confidence positions of each party, that if released would cause detriment to both parties in this negotiation and future negotiations on similar matters.</p>
<b>PAC Information Request 2: MI Global Appendices</b>		
Attachment C - Hobart Stadium Optimisation Analysis - Final Report V2	Largely published. Request that current redactions are retained	Commercial in confidence due to the methodological information contained in the table, including analysis around capacity of stadium and number of AFL games to be held at the stadium.
Attachment D - Hobart Stadium CBA Final Report	Largely published. Request that current redactions are retained	Commercial in confidence due to the methodological information contained in the table, including the attribution of costs and benefits over the years of the analysis, MI Global formed the view that if disclosed it would illustrate a methodology/approach. This may provide insight for competitors of MI Global as to how it approaches its analysis.
<b>PAC Information Request 3: Current AFL Content Agreements</b>		
Attachment E.1 - Crown Agreement - Hawthorn Football Club 2023-2025	Retain confidentiality in full until consultation is able to be completed with Hawthorn Football Club	<b>TBC</b> – consultation is ongoing with Hawthorn Football Club.
Attachment E.2 - Tripartite Agreement (HFC, AFL, DSG)	Retain confidentiality in full until consultation is able to be completed with Hawthorn Football Club and AFL	<b>TBC</b> - consultation is ongoing with Hawthorn Football Club and AFL.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

**Attachment A – Document list and requests for confidentiality**

Description	Request	Reasons
Attachment F - Crown Agreement - North Melbourne AFLW 2023-2025	N/A	North Melbourne did not raise any concerns.
<b>PAC Information Request 4: Federal Funding Agreement</b>		
Attachment G – Letter from the Hon. Catherine King MP	N/A	Minister King’s Office did not raise any concerns.