

Simon Scott  
Committee Secretary  
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts

Dear Simon,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed AFL stadium at Macquarie Point, as outlined in the Terms of Reference for your inquiry into the Arts, Entertainment, and Sports Precinct in Hobart. As a resident of South Hobart, Tasmania, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts on our community, heritage, and financial well-being.

I am a proud Tasmanian citizen, residing in the vibrant city of Hobart. My connection to Tasmania runs deep, and I am committed to ensuring the sustainable development and prosperity of our beautiful state.

Following are my main points

*ToR 1: Club Funding and Development Agreement*

The imposition of Mac Point by the AFL without due consideration for town planning and community impact is disconcerting. Allowing a single individual, without relevant expertise, to dictate the location is a detriment to the democratic planning process. The AFL's demands should not supersede the well-being of our community.

*ToR 2: Suitability of Macquarie Point*

Macquarie Point is not a suitable site for a stadium of this scale. The adverse impacts on heritage buildings, the Cenotaph, and Sullivans Cove are undeniable. The proposed stadium's size, foundation challenges, and traffic implications make Mac Point an ill-fitting location that disregards the prevailing planning scheme.

*ToR 3: Financial Risks Associated with the Agreement*

The disproportionate financial burden placed on Tasmania in the Club Funding and Development Agreement is alarming. The lack of risk-sharing with the AFL and the questionable financial viability, as highlighted by the negative Net Present Value, raises serious concerns about the prudence of this venture.

*ToR 4: Financing and Delivery of the Entire Precinct*

Redirecting funds from crucial areas such as housing, health, and education to finance the stadium is irresponsible. The undisclosed costs of major roadworks and infrastructure, coupled with the potential for cost blowouts, further underscore the financial risks associated with this project.

*ToR 5: Future of Blundstone Arena and UTAS Stadium*

The addition of a third stadium in the south exacerbates regional divides and neglects existing facilities. The history of substantial public investments in Blundstone Arena calls into question the necessity of a new stadium and the financial wisdom behind such a decision.

*ToR 6: Other Matters Incidental Thereto*

A comprehensive consideration of all stakeholders, transparent financial assumptions, and a realistic assessment of infrastructure readiness are imperative. The proposed stadium, with its potential negative impact on traffic, housing, and community values, must be critically examined.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to thoroughly evaluate the proposed AFL stadium at Macquarie Point, taking into account the long-term consequences for our community, heritage, and financial stability. There are alternative solutions that better align with the needs and values of Tasmanians. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that your inquiry will contribute to informed decision-making in the best interests of our beloved Tasmania.

Sincerely,

Jorge Alvarez-Romero

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Jorge Alvarez-Romero.