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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

30 March 2023

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

Email: guy.barnett@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister Barnett

Questions on Notice: Inquiries into the Tasmanian Government's Proposed Hobart Stadium Feasibility Planning Process

On behalf of the Public Accounts Committee, I thank you, Messrs Kim Evans, Gary Swain, Brett Stewart and Ms Anne Beach for providing further information in relation to our abovementioned inquiry.

During the public hearing held on Friday, 24 March 2023, you kindly agreed to provide the following information taken on notice:

1. With respect to a new AFL licence being provided to the proposed Tasmanian team, provide evidence of when a new centrally located green-field stadium first became a condition or requirement from the AFL to secure a licence.

2. With respect to the original decision to build a stadium at Regatta Point, what consultation was made with any key stakeholders or the broader community prior to Premier Gutwein's statement in his State of the State Address 2022?

3. A timeline of all the important events and decision points leading up to the proposed Macquarie Point site being the preferred option as part of the Tasmanian Government's proposed Hobart Stadium Feasibility Planning Process.

4. A copy of the diagrams being prepared to show sightlines/elevations at street level and from other key vantage points (e.g. Cenotaph, port control tower, and any other significant buildings) from all sides of the proposed Macquarie Stadium based on current information provided to the Committee, and

5. The sum of money that has been already paid to Milieu Property to date with respect to the Escarpment situated at Macquarie Point.

In addition, you kindly agreed to take further questions from the Committee that were unable to be covered during the hearing:

6. How does the Government intend to have the project assessed:
    - Project of State Significance (POSS) assessment process under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*?
    - Major Projects assessment process under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*?
    - Planning Scheme amendment process under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*?
    - Hobart's Draft Local Provisions Schedule process under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*?

7. Will legislative change be required to facilitate the assessment of the project if the Major Projects process is used, in particular:
    - *Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme 1997*, and
    - *Macquarie Point Development Corporation Act 2012*?

8. What has been done to assess the suitability of the Macquarie Point site to include a major stadium:
    - Land/soil suitability
    - Traffic management, including access to RHH
    - Noise and light impacts
    - Planning and procurement
    - Functionality and connectivity with the city and those travelling to the stadium
    - The proposed Truth and Reconciliation Art Park
    - The proposed global gateway Antarctic and Science Precinct
    - Impact on the Cenotaph
    - Impact on the 1914 Goods Shed
    - Climate related issues, and
    - Any associated costs or tenders advertised or awarded related to the above?

9. Who specifically was consulted when making the decision that Macquarie Point was the site of choice?

10. Did the business case take into account the foregone MONA masterplan and the development investment already being negotiated?

11. What does the business case assume about the land on which the stadium will be built, and
    - If so, how is the expenditure to date factored in?
    - If a block of land has alternative uses, then an opportunity cost of that block should be included in any cost/benefit analysis, has this been done:
        - If so, please provide details of the this, and
        - If not, why has this not been done and factored into the cost/benefit analysis?

12. What are the additional infrastructure costings for supporting infrastructure that will be required to support the development including:
    - The Northern transit corridor
    - Northern access
    - Upgrade to Evans Street (noting that to move 10,000 people off the site during dark Mofo requires the closure of Evans Street and the Tasman Highway/Davey Street), and
    - Were the above factored into the Business Case?

13. Minister Barnett signed off on the August 2022 Statement of Ministerial Expectations which again directed the Board and the Corporation to continue to pursue and deliver the Masterplan which is Clause 32 of the *Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme*. When was the Minister aware of the Department progressing matters related to a possible stadium at Macquarie Point in what appears to be contrary to the Government's policy direction as per the Ministerial Statement of Understanding?

14. Pricewater Coopers (PwC) were commissioned to undertake an economic analysis of the 'new arts, entertainment and sports precinct' dated August 2022:
    - What date was this Report Commissioned, that is, the first communication by email, phone or meeting?
        - Please provide a copy of this communication.
    - Who commissioned this work, that is, unit within the agency?
    - How long did the actual report take – from commissioning to final report?
    - Please provide a copy of the research brief that PwC worked to.
    - Did the brief request various scenarios, that is, worst, medium and best cases, and
        - If so, did this report present details of these scenarios, and
        - If so, please provide copies of all drafts of the report
        - If not, why not?
    - When did the Secretary advise the Minister and/or Premier and/or their advisors of this work being undertaken by PWC?
    - What was the actual cost of the PWC work?

15. With regard to the MI Global partners – Hobart Stadium Capacity Optimisation Analysis:
    - What date was this Analysis Commissioned, that is, the first communication by email, phone or meeting?
        - Please provide a copy of this communication.
    - Who commissioned this work, that is, unit within the agency?
    - How long did the actual report take – from commissioning to final report?
    - Please provide a copy of the research brief that MI Global Partners worked to.
    - Did the brief request various scenarios, that is, worst, medium and best cases, and
        - If so, did this report present details of these scenarios, and
        - If so, please provide copies of all drafts of the report
        - If not, why not?

- When did the Secretary advise the Minister and/or Premier and/or their advisors of this work being undertaken by MI Global Partners?
- What was the actual cost of the MI Global Partners work?
- Regarding the decision to build a stadium at Macquarie Point:
  - Who made the decision that the MONA reset would be set aside to facilitate this?
  - What date was this decision made?
  - Please provide copies of the confirmation of this decision.
- What date was the Chairperson of the Macquarie Point Development Corporation (MPDC) informed of the change, and
  - How was this communicated?
  - Please provide a copy of this communication.

16. With regard to the role of Major Stadiums business unit within Department of State Growth (DSG) and the newly established statutory Stadiums Tasmania:
    - What is the structure of the Unit:
      - Where does it sit?
      - Who does it answer to?
      - What are the corporate governance arrangements in place (i.e. is the CEO and the team answerable to the Board, the Minister (which Minister) and/or the head of the public service)?
      - How does it relate to the wider DSG agency?
      - How does it work with Stadiums Tasmania?
      - How are conflicts related to expected outcomes or advice managed?
    - Will Major Stadiums Unit or Stadiums Tasmania manage the planning and construction process for the Macquarie Point stadium?
      - Please explain the process thoroughly.

17. Why has not the position of MPDC Chief Executive Officer being advertised, given it was stated back in 20 June 2022 that this would occur?

18. What is the future of the MDPC?

19. With respect to DSG Tender No.3390 'Specialist Stadium Advice' awarded 5 August 2021:
    - What was the advice provided for under that contract with respect to the development of stadiums in Tasmania by Waypoint Pty Ltd?

20. With respect to DSG Tender No.3391 'Specialist Stadium Advice for University of Tasmania Stadium' awarded 23 September 2021:
    - What was the advice provided for under that contract with respect to the redevelopment of UTAS Stadiums by Resource Co-ordination Partnership?

21. With respect to DSG Tender No.3620 'Specialist Strategic and Infrastructure Advice' awarded 15 March 2023:
    - What services are contemplated under that contract for commercial, infrastructure related and strategic advice to DSG around negotiations with the AFL?

Taking into account the Easter break, a written response addressing the above questions would be appreciated by Friday, 21 April 2023 to the Committee Secretary, Simon Scott (email Simon.Scott@parliament.tas.gov.au).

Thank you for your continuing assistance in this inquiry and the Committee looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
CHAIR