

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear Public Accounts Committee,

Subject: Submission on the Proposed Arts, Entertainment, and Sports Precinct in Hobart

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed Arts, Entertainment, and Sports Precinct at Macquarie Point, particularly the construction of a stadium to meet the demands of the AFL.

I am a Tasmanian citizen and live in Hobart with a strong connection to this beautiful state. I have prepared this submission to shed light on various aspects of the proposed project, emphasizing my objections and concerns.

#### Terms of Reference 1: The AFL's Influence and the Mac Point Location

The AFL's insistence on Mac Point as the location for the stadium raises serious concerns. The government's agreement with the AFL, seemingly without due consideration for alternative options, lacks transparency and community consultation. The proposed stadium, driven by the AFL's preferences, poses a significant risk to the community without ensuring proportional benefits.

#### Terms of Reference 2: Suitability of Macquarie Point

The Mac Point site appears unsuitable for a stadium of the proposed scale. The impact on heritage buildings, including the Royal Engineers building and the Cenotaph, is troubling. The destruction of Sullivans Cove heritage and the obliteration of significant views raise serious questions about the project's appropriateness for this location.

#### Terms of Reference 3: Financial Risks

The financial risks associated with the project are alarming. The disproportionate burden on the Tasmanian taxpayer, coupled with the lack of AFL's financial commitment and risk-sharing, raises questions about the project's viability and the government's responsibility to protect public funds.

#### Terms of Reference 4: Financing and Delivery

The financial assumptions, infrastructure costs, and overall economic viability of the project need thorough examination. The potential impact on housing, health, and education priorities should be prioritized over a stadium project that lacks community support and has dubious financial feasibility.

#### Terms of Reference 5: Impact on Existing Facilities

The addition of a third stadium in the south appears socially divisive, with substitution costs affecting the northern economy. A comprehensive option study, considering the impact on existing facilities and the criteria for success, is essential for a fair evaluation.

#### Terms of Reference 6: Incidental Matters

Considering other matters incidental to the proposed precinct, it is crucial to evaluate the wide-ranging impacts on all stakeholders. Stakeholder importance should be weighed judiciously, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to thoroughly investigate the concerns raised in this submission and consider the long-term implications of the proposed Arts, Entertainment, and Sports Precinct. Our taxpayer funds should be directed toward addressing critical needs such as housing, health, and education.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that your inquiry will ensure a comprehensive and impartial assessment of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Georgina Gurney

