

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed stadium at Macq Point.

In my opinion, the agreement “negotiated” by the Tasmanian Government has been a sell-out of Tasmanian interests. In effect, Tasmania rolled over and gave in to AFL demands. AFL does run this state...does it?

The State Government is giving away access to public land (Macquarie Point) that some describe as our Sydney Opera House site. There has been years of discussion, design suggestions and consultation re the Macq Point site and suddenly all that comes to nought because the AFL needs us to have a new stadium.

All views to and from the Cenotaph and the historic waterfront will be obliterated by a stadium in this location.

The scale of the building proposed impinges on the Royal Engineers building, on the Cenotaph and on the heritage listed Regatta Pavilion. It towers over the heritage buildings of Hunter Street and Sullivans Cove.

The prevailing planning scheme specifically precludes development that overwhelms the historic spaces and buildings. By the government's own assessment, it is over 40 metres high. The digital images published as artist impression show this building looming over the historic site quite inappropriately. The precinct is suitable for a range of uses, but scale must be realistic, with all consequences considered and addressed professionally.

The Government's own Report demonstrates conclusively that a stadium at Macquarie Point is not a financially viable project – the business case just doesn't stack up.

It is projected that the stadium could lose \$300 million over 10 years. The Tasmanian Government hasn't just helped out with the establishment of a Tasmanian AFL club, it has entered into a highly risky business venture with the AFL, where the AFL bears no risk and where the anticipated costs of this project will escalate rapidly.

We, the taxpayer, will end up paying for overruns. losses and time penalties for years to come.

BUT we still have no idea of the actual spend, because the Government has, incredibly, avoided costing the entire development with major roadworks off Hobart's busiest arterial road, major public transport infrastructure, redevelopment of Macquarie Wharf, removal of the sewerage works, and mass parking facilities.

About \$160 million of public money has already been spent upgrading Blundstone Arena so it can host major cricket and football matches. Our current Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, then Minister for Infrastructure, and Tony Harrison from Cricket Tasmania, announced in 2013 they wanted to increase the stadium's capacity to 20,000. They said then that public money was justified because "the strong support of the North Melbourne AFL football matches at Blundstone Arena suggests the extra capacity is required to meet public demand". In 2016 a record crowd of 17,844 watched North Melbourne defeat Richmond 124 - 54. A record which has never been broken.

If the business case for the upgrade of the Southern Stand and Members Stand at Blundstone Arena just nine years ago was based on AFL football being played there, then why are we now being talked into a 23000 seat stadium that may never be more than half full when we already have a perfectly good one that has been hosting AFL for a decade?

Why in Hobart? How do the Northern half of the state feel about that? Why can't we build in, say, Campbell Town? It's central. There's space. No wastage of iconic waterfront. Easily accessible for the whole state and it would provide jobs and spinoffs in that area.

Thank you for listening,
Jill Winter

[REDACTED]