

# CONSTITUENT QUESTION

## House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Jen Butler MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Guy Barnett MP

### QUESTION:

- I. Premier, constituents remain incredibly concerned about the preservation of the Cenotaph. One year ago, you stated in this House that you would continue to engage with the RSL about any potential impacts on the site. When was the last time you met with RSL Tasmania in relation to the Cenotaph?

### ANSWER:

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the importance of the Cenotaph as a place of remembrance for Tasmanian veterans. Tasmanians have a proud and distinguished history of military service, with over 17,500 veterans and ex-serving personnel living in the state. Our government deeply respects our veterans and the sacrifices they made for the freedoms we enjoy.

On behalf of the premier, I am pleased to advise there has been contact with the Premier's Office, most recently in person at a meeting on 30 May 2024.

The Government has committed to a transparent independent planning process for the assessment of the multipurpose stadium at Macquarie Point. This process will be conducted independently of the Government and will involve public consultation with the RSL, various Government agencies, the Hobart City Council, and members of the public.

An independent panel will prepare an integrated assessment report, taking into account the heritage and cultural impacts of the project.

According to this process, any multipurpose stadium recommended by the Commission must be approved by the Government and subsequently passed by both houses of Parliament. I recently communicated with Mr. John Hardy, CEO of RSL Tasmania, regarding this matter.

I have been informed that the sight lines to and from the Cenotaph, as specified in the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme 1997, are crucial design considerations for both the precinct and the multipurpose stadium. We have engaged our lead design consultants to ensure that the stadium's design, materials, and integration with the landscape honor and respect the Cenotaph.

Cox Architecture, a leading Australian architectural firm, has been appointed as the Lead Design Consultant for the multipurpose stadium. This team brings extensive experience in designing stadiums across Australia and internationally, including notable projects like Adelaide Oval, Optus Stadium in Perth, and Allianz Stadium in Sydney.

The team also includes local Tasmanian architectural firm Cumulus Studio Pty Ltd, and specialist engineers and technicians, including AECOM, local experts Cova, Aldanmark, and Pitt & Sherry, as well as international partner SBP, known for their work on world-leading designs such as SoFI Stadium in California.

The team will work on a concept design for the stadium that will be entirely different from previous renderings. This new design will ensure that the stadium is of a size and scale sensitive to the surrounding area, including the Cenotaph.

Our goal is to create a space where people can remember and celebrate our service personnel, both past and present, throughout the year.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP  
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 11 June 2024