

Private Forests Tasmania

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20 December 2023

Tasmanian Planning Commission
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Our Ref: D23-375475
Your Ref: [\[Click to enter text\]](#)

Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium

Thank you for your letter of 4 December 2023 inviting [comments](#) on the draft guidelines for the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium project. PFT has considered the guidelines and provide our comments below.

Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) is an independent statutory authority established under the Tasmanian *Private Forests Act 1994*. We work to facilitate and expand the sustainable growth and development of the private forest resource in Tasmania. We do this through providing information to private forest growers, through research collaborations, advocacy, innovation and planning tools. Under our [Corporate Plan 2023-26](#) one of our four goals is to work with policy makers and regulators to improve regulatory efficiency and practical policy settings for private forestry.

Northern access road to the Port of Hobart

The Port of Hobart is a key piece of infrastructure in the export supply chain for the forestry industry in Southern Tasmania. Secure and efficient access to the Port, particularly berths 4 and 5, is critical to the industry's future. The forestry industry, along with other users of the Port, have for many years been advocating for a new northern roadway access from the Domain into the Port. A new road will be essential to remove the heavy freight task from Evans Street as the Macquarie Point development concepts materialise, including the proposed stadium. The new access road would be to the benefit of all freight transiting through the Port, not just forest products.

The Government has recognised this and made a commitment as part of the *Hobart City Deal* in 2019 to construct a new northern access road to the Port. The *Mac Point Draft Precinct Plan*, released in October 2023, has now committed to developing a concept plan for the new access road.

Despite these commitments, the draft guidelines do not contain any reference to the proposed new road. It is recommended that Section 6.2 of the guidelines, which deals with traffic, freight and transport routes around the stadium, should specifically reference the proposed northern access road to ensure the relevant information is prepared and provided to the Commission for the purposes of its integrated assessment. It would also give Tasmanians confidence that the Government is intending to deliver on its commitments to construct the road as part of the Macquarie Point re-development.

Wood Encouragement Policy

In 2017 the Tasmanian Government released its [Wood Encouragement Policy](#). The policy was the first of its kind in Australia and aimed to increase the use of sustainably sourced forest and wood products

within Government procurement activities, particularly in building and construction and the heating and energy requirements of building and construction projects.

The choice of wood as a building material not only supports one of Tasmania's key industries, but it has significant carbon emissions reduction benefits when used in place of more emission intensive products like concrete, steel and plastic. On average, the production of a cubic metre of wood creates around 1.1 tonnes less CO₂ emissions than the production of an equivalent amount of steel, concrete or plastic. This amount, coupled to the 0.9 tonne of CO₂ stored in the wood, means that every cubic metre of wood substituting for fossil fuel-intensive materials saves a total of approximately 2 tonnes of CO₂¹.

The carbon benefits of using wood for building and construction projects was acknowledged by the Australian Government in its recent commitment at COP28 in Dubai. Australia, with 16 other countries, committed to advancing policies and approaches that support low carbon construction by increasing the use of wood from sustainably managed forests in the built environment.

The draft guidelines should ensure Tasmania's Wood Encouragement Policy and Australia's COP28 commitment is given proper consideration throughout the project.

If you have any queries on the points we have raised, please contact me on 0409 843 928 or our Policy & Data Officer Murray Root on 03 6165 4072.

¹*The Role of Wood Products in Zero Carbon Buildings*. Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited, 2023

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Elizabeth Pietrzykowski
CEO Private Forests Tasmania