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**From:** bert lawatsch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 January 2024 3:42 PM  
**To:** TPC Enquiry; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission on draft guidelines for stadium

**Categories:** Vishaka

[REDACTED]

8 January 2024

Dear TPC and other readers

### **Integrated Assessment for proposed Stadium at Macquarie Point**

From the outset I want to state that the public consultation period imposed by your Government is appallingly short for such a big project and poorly timed, being over the Christmas/ new year holidays when many people are either enjoying their holidays without being in the mind-frame of doing work such as writing submissions, or are away travelling – and not in a position to focus on a submission.

It is very poor consultation, in fact non-consultation, to impose such a restrictive timeframe on the submission period.

The whole stadium process so far can only be described as a sham - the biggest sham in Tasmanian history - and a con to the Tasmanian public, this unwanted project being forced onto them whilst being promised of the great things it will do for Tasmanians. The process, so far, just adds to the secrecy and lack of transparency that the Liberal Party has been guilty of for many years.

What I would like the Government and Tasmanian Planning Commission to consider, if it is able, is what alternative uses are there for the Macquarie Point Site – that would suit Tasmania and visitors such as tourists far better and cost far less? An example is a large public park that everyone could utilize for relaxation and recreation, and which would fit in well with Tasmania’s green, natural and relaxed image. Would such a development be much more suited to Tasmania as a whole and cost far less than a stadium? How did the government arrive at Macquarie Point being best utilized as a stadium space and why is Macquarie Point the most appropriate site for the stadium? Why, in fact, do we need a stadium? A comprehensive report/s should be requested at how these decisions were made.

What will the noise impact be on local residents and neighbouring businesses from the construction and ongoing operation of the stadium? Will these people be compensated or have any form of redress if they lodge a complaint with the EPA? Will the EPA apply suitable noise limits to the construction and operation of the stadium and will these be enforced? Residents and businesses not interested in football should not have to endure large increases in noise because the government thought it was a good idea to build a stadium near them.

Why isn’t the government spending the money they propose on the stadium to the long list of *necessary* expenditure projects in Tasmania – including education, health system improvements, roads, environmental problems, quality tourism projects, the list is endless.

## **Re: AFL High Performance Centre decision**

What gives the government the right to spend \$60 Million of Tasmanian's public money (the other \$10m coming from the AFL supposedly) on a training centre for footy?

It is outrageous that the government has gone ahead planning to build the High Performance footy training centre, and committing itself to spending many millions of Tasmania's public money on a facility very few Tasmanians need, want, or will use.

Even more appalling is that the government has gone ahead with planning and allocating money for this centre while a question mark hangs over the stadium project as a whole, since it is only early in the assessment phase. This just adds to the sham that the whole stadium process is, with the government ignoring proper process and doing whatever it likes in whatever order it sees fit, all the while ignoring and brushing aside anyone who questions their methods of governance.

In short, the Liberal government is clearly a dictatorship rather than a democratic, inclusive, and consultative body that appears in the media as doing the right things by what they say, but these are just words to placate the audience, in practice the reality is far different.

It is clear the government's priorities are completely inappropriate when important and fundamental challenges for the state are ignored in favour of a footy stadium. It seems the government is only capable of thinking about footy.

Just where do the governments' priorities lie with regard to public money spending? Tasmania faces many challenges including health system inadequacies, education (50% of Tasmanians are illiterate!), housing, environment, roads, lack of necessary and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

The government has so lost touch with Tasmanians that it has created a minister for Stadia. What about a minister for poverty or a minister for illiteracy (the state is consistently ranked lowest on educational outcomes)?

I would have thought a footy stadium (and training centre) would be last on the list of expenditure items. Such facilities are not what the average Tasmanian needs, particularly those who are having a hard time with the high cost of living. It seems your government has given up on these people.

Has the government consulted with social organizations such as Tascoss, etc, to determine what priorities are important to them regarding public spending?

The government should focus on the basics of what Tasmanians need rather than frivolous projects that we can't afford. I expected that would be how the government thinks and acts, so it is beyond me that instead, the government thinks like we are living on the Gold Coast or perhaps Los Angeles with unlimited funds available to build a stadium that isn't needed or even suited to Tasmania.

It is outrageous to spend so much money on a footy training centre and stadium, whether it is 'multipurpose' or not. It shows the government has completely lost touch with Tasmanians, many of who struggle to survive day to day just with paying their bills. If the government can't see this then they have lost their way and don't deserve to be in power.

Sincerely,

Bert Lawatsch

