

## **SUBMISSION TO THE TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION RE AFL STADIUM**

No doubt the Liberal members of parliament hoped that allowing only one month for public comment on the scheme, in the busiest time of year for most families with Christmas and annual holidays upon us, would mean that no one would have the time to comment.

However, it is obvious from the masses of emails to the editors of our local newspapers and comments on talk-back radio over the past few months that the vast proportion of Tasmanians are against this foolhardy scheme.

The whole project is like a mirage.

There has been a lack of transparency throughout and a withholding of relevant information about the endeavour. Here are some of my reasons why it should not proceed.

- No actual plan.
- No thought to cost overruns or even the availability of enough material and qualified tradesmen to do the job.
- The prohibitive cost of moving the sewage works.
- Cost of reclamation of the area.
- The loss of GST revenue.
- The fact that if it were roofed there would be no cricket played there and because of its shape no football (soccer) either.
- Little chance of big name shows coming, due to the cost of transport over Bass Strait and the dearth of accommodation and cargo space on the present ferries.
- Only 7 AFL games per year = massive under use of the complex.
- Earlier this year the State Treasury listed this project as a key risk to the state's budget.
- There are penalties if it is not completed on time. (when did anyone even build a family home on time?)
- We already have two perfectly good stadia here, particularly York Park which has the best playing surface for AFL in Australia and would be a much more accessible location from all parts of Tasmania.
- Why did the Tasmanian Liberal Government allow themselves to be bullied into erecting a stadium as part of the bid for a Tasmanian AFL team? No other football club has had these onerous conditions placed on it to obtain a licence.
- Even though there is not even a team yet, jobs have been created. Surely this is jumping the gun and yet more waste of money.

There would no doubt be a penalty for breaking the contract with the AFL, but it would be a fraction of the cost of the project itself and would save Tasmanians from the division and angst facing us and the massive debt which would be a millstone round our necks for years to come; let alone the lack of funds available for, health, education and the housing crisis.

**So, I respectfully request that you do not support this reckless venture.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Estelle Ross 

December 20th 2023