

Submission to the Macquarie Point Planning Permit Bill 2025

To the Members of the Tasmanian Parliament,

I write in strong support of the Macquarie Point Planning Permit Bill 2025, which is a critical piece of legislation to unlock the full potential of the Macquarie Point precinct and deliver long-overdue infrastructure and cultural development in Hobart.

This bill provides the clarity and planning certainty necessary to proceed with the construction of the multi-purpose stadium—an essential component of Tasmania's entry into the national AFL competition. The stadium is not just a sporting venue—it's a catalyst for transformation that will create jobs, attract investment, and rejuvenate the heart of Hobart.

Key Reasons for Supporting the Bill:

1. A National-Standard Stadium for a National Team

Tasmania has earned its place in the AFL. A team without a home ground is like a heart without a body. The Macquarie Point stadium ensures our team has a world-class venue, providing a base that unifies the state and gives our young athletes something to aspire to.

2. Economic and Social Benefits

Independent modelling has shown that this project will inject hundreds of millions into our economy, with flow-on effects in tourism, construction, hospitality, and retail. Importantly, it will create hundreds of jobs during construction and ongoing roles once the precinct is operational.

3. Urban Renewal Done Right

Macquarie Point has sat dormant for far too long. This bill ensures the land is finally put to productive use. The stadium will be part of a broader urban renewal vision that includes green spaces, cultural facilities, hospitality, and improved public transport connections—benefiting locals and visitors alike.

4. Planning Transparency with Certainty

The bill does not override good planning principles—it facilitates them. With strong design, heritage, and environmental oversight still in place, it ensures the project meets the highest standards while providing certainty that the project can proceed without being bogged down by delays or political games.

5. Broad Public Support

Despite vocal opposition from a minority, public sentiment—especially among younger Tasmanians—is strongly in favour of the stadium. Petitions supporting the development have attracted tens of thousands of signatures. People want to see progress, not paralysis.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build something bold and lasting for Tasmania's future. I urge you to support the Macquarie Point Planning Permit Bill 2025 and help deliver a legacy that our children and grandchildren will be proud of.

Sincerely

Irene Van Ommen

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Irene Van Ommen.

08/06/2025