

3.06. 2025

The Hon. Jeremy Rockliff

Premier of Tasmania

Level 10, Executive Building

15 Murray Street

Hobart TAS 7000

Subject: Urgent Opposition to the Proposed Hobart Stadium Project

Dear Premier Rockliff,

I am writing to you today as a deeply concerned Tasmanian citizen to express my unequivocal and absolute opposition to the proposed construction of a stadium in Hobart. I believe this project is fiscally irresponsible, detrimental to the well-being of our state, and fundamentally out of step with the priorities and desires of the majority of Tasmanians.

My primary concern is the catastrophic financial implications this stadium will have for our state. Tasmania simply cannot afford such a monumental expenditure. I am firmly convinced that this project will bankrupt the state, diverting critical funds away from essential services that are already under immense strain. We are facing pressing crises in housing, health, and education, and it is unconscionable to consider pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into a stadium when these vital areas are desperately underfunded.

Furthermore, I have absolutely no confidence that this project will be managed capably or remain within its allocated budget. The history of large-scale public projects, both domestically and internationally, demonstrates a clear pattern of cost blowouts and mismanagement. The ongoing debacle surrounding the Spirit of Tasmania vessel replacements stands as a stark and recent example of significant incompetence in major government projects, and it does little to inspire faith in the state's ability to deliver a complex and costly stadium on time and on budget. I am certain this project will go over budget, placing an even greater strain on the state's finances.

Finally, I must register my profound objection to the manner in which this proposal has been advanced. It has been presented in a way that feels authoritarian and dismissive of public sentiment. The perception is that this project has been "shoved down our throats" in a "Trumpian" fashion, despite clear indications that the majority of Tasmanians do not want it. This disregard for public opinion is deeply concerning and undermines the principles of democratic governance.

Therefore, I urge you, Premier Rockliff, to cease and desist immediately from further pursuing this economically devastating and publicly unwanted stadium project. It is imperative that our government prioritises the genuine needs of Tasmanians: affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and quality education.

I look forward to your serious consideration of my concerns and a commitment to re-evaluate this misguided proposal.

Sincerely,

Dr Megan Walch

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