

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Macquarie Point Stadium development in Hobart. This project presents a rare and exciting opportunity for Tasmania to secure a lasting legacy that will benefit our community across sport, culture, tourism, and the economy.

As a teacher with over 40 years of experience, originally trained as a Health and Physical Education teacher, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that sport has on young people's physical, social, and emotional development. While not all young people aspire to become professional AFL players, the presence of a Tasmanian AFL team and a dedicated stadium is likely to significantly boost participation in Australian Rules Football across the state, for both girls and boys. We have already witnessed this effect with the emergence of the JackJumpers, whose influence on youth basketball participation and pride in our local sporting identity has been nothing short of remarkable.

The Macquarie Point Stadium is much more than a sporting venue. It will:

- Strengthen our state identity by giving Tasmanians a long-overdue seat at the national AFL table.
- Drive tourism and economic development through increased visitor numbers and events.
- Create jobs during construction and through ongoing operation and event hosting.
- Revitalise Macquarie Point, transforming an underutilised space into a dynamic precinct for locals and visitors alike.
- Support broader community engagement through arts, music, cultural events, and education opportunities connected to sport and recreation.

This is about investing in Tasmania's future. About providing our young people with pathways, pride, and inspiration. About ensuring our capital city can compete with other states for major events and opportunities.

I wholeheartedly support the development of the Macquarie Point Stadium and urge decision-makers to move forward with this vital infrastructure for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

Christine Gilmour