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Department of Premier and Cabinet
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Via email: [online](https://www.tas.gov.au/dpac/macquarie-point-multipurpose-stadium-consultation) submission portal (<https://www.tas.gov.au/dpac/macquarie-point-multipurpose-stadium-consultation>)

Submission – Macquarie Point Planning Permit Bill 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Macquarie Point Planning Permit Bill 2025 (the Bill). This submission is made on behalf of the Planning Institute Australia (PIA) Tasmania, the peak body representing planning professionals across the country.

PIA Tasmania advocates for sustainable, evidence-based planning that supports resilient, inclusive, and prosperous communities. We support reforms that improve planning outcomes through well-resourced strategic planning aligned with our national positions on liveability, health, settlement strategies, climate-conscious systems, and risk management in a changing environment.

This submission does not take a position on the merit of the Stadium Project itself. Rather, we express our concerns about the Bill's implications for decisions made within Tasmania's planning system, their basis on qualified advice and good governance of such decisions.

1. Tasmania's RMPS Loses Development Control Under the Bill

The Bill removes the Stadium Project from the Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS), bypassing its objectives, opportunity to consider expert advice and provide a qualified basis for decision making, public involvement, procedural fairness and regulatory oversight. This undermines the integrity of both the decision on this project and Tasmania's land use planning framework, which is designed to ensure development aligns with community expectations and sustainable outcomes.

The RMPS objectives are foundational to quality planning and decisions in Tasmania. Projects such as the Bridgewater Bridge demonstrate that major developments can be delivered successfully within the existing system (on time and on budget), with community involvement in the decision-making process and the associated public license this process provides.

2. Minister Gains Unprecedented Control with the Bill

The Bill grants extraordinary decision-making power to the Minister, with minimal checks and balances. Section 4's broad definition of "development" and Section 7's override of

numerous Acts raises serious concerns, particularly given the lack of consideration against the RMPS objectives.

The Tasmanian Planning Commission's (TPC) expert panel raised valid concerns in its Integrated Assessment Report (IAR). Without their continued involvement, the Minister assumes full responsibility for any unresolved impacts, both during construction and once the facility is operational.

The Enabling Legislation Report (May 2025) fails to clarify whether the Minister's determination will consider existing planning frameworks or expert input. It also does not evaluate the success of similar legislation in delivering projects on time, within budget, or in line with community expectations.

3. Bill Reflects Lack of Confidence in Planning System, Creates Two-Speed Approval Process

By introducing this Bill, the Government signals a lack of confidence in Tasmania's planning system to delivery large projects. This undermines the profession and contributes to a two-speed approval process: one for projects that get special legislation, and another for everyone else.

This disparity is already being felt. As noted in PIA's recent commentary, the planning profession is under-resourced, and this Bill exacerbates the perception that the system is inadequate for major projects. Such an approach risks discouraging investment in Tasmania and eroding public trust.

4. Embedding Planning in Project Schedule: A Due Diligence Necessity

The Bill appears to reflect project scheduling issues rather than any failure in the planning system. Effective due diligence should have accounted for the time required for proper assessment, particularly given the modifications to the normal PoSS pathway for the Stadium project.

The TPC's expert panel identified critical issues that need to be addressed. Rushing the process through bespoke legislation risks compounding these issues and undermining the project's long-term success.

PIA Tasmania's Recommendation

PIA strongly recommends that the Project continue under the established Project of State Significance (PoSS) pathway. This process has demonstrated its capacity for proper consideration of major projects, timely decisions and appropriate oversight. Modifying the Bill is not a suitable alternative.

We support the recent observations of Saul Eslake that the Tasmanian AFL team has become an unfortunate divisive wedge rather than the unifying force it ought to be for the Tasmanian community¹.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. On behalf of our members, we urge full consideration of the concerns and recommendations outlined above. We welcome the opportunity to support the development of a robust planning system that serves all Tasmanians.

Yours sincerely,



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