

To: Department of Premier and Cabinet

Submission on the Draft Macquarie Point Planning Permit Bill 2025

Name: Ben Matters

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Submission: Support for the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium

I write to express my strong support for the proposed Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium.

As a proud Tasmanian, small business owner, and someone actively engaged in both the hospitality sector and broader community development, I see this project as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform Hobart's waterfront into a vibrant, accessible, and world-class precinct.

Tasmania has long been overlooked for major infrastructure investment. The stadium represents far more than a sports venue — it is a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, and cultural vibrancy. It will generate construction and ongoing employment, reinvigorate Macquarie Point, and anchor Hobart as a capital city ready to host national and international events.

Public debate has often focused narrowly on the cost. I believe this misses the broader picture. Great cities invest in bold, forward-thinking infrastructure. The stadium will unlock tourism potential, lock in Tasmania's AFL team bid, and bring people together — all while activating a largely underutilised part of our city.

From a planning perspective, the proposal aligns with smart urban renewal: it prioritises public access, integrates transport, and respects the site's history through heritage considerations and a clear connection to the waterfront. Importantly, it coexists with, and enhances, other uses of the precinct — from culture to hospitality and events.

Importantly, Tasmania's population is ageing rapidly. This is driven in part by the ongoing exodus of younger people who leave the state each year in search of greater opportunity, lifestyle, and income — often heading to cities that invest heavily in community, culture, and sport. A development of this significance helps shift that narrative. It signals that Tasmania is not just a place to grow up, but a place to stay, to build a career, and to thrive.

A stadium also gives our youth something to aspire to. It creates a focal point for community and connection. We've seen what the JackJumpers have done for this state — building pride, lifting participation in local sport, and uniting Tasmanians behind something bigger than themselves. A stadium will only amplify that energy, providing a shared space that inspires ambition and encourages the next generation to get involved — whether on the field, in the stands, or in the many jobs such a precinct supports.

In summary, I fully endorse the stadium proposal and urge the Government to proceed confidently. Tasmania deserves infrastructure that reflects our identity, ambition and future — not just our past.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Kind regards,

Ben Matters

A proud Tasmanian