

Our Place - Hobart

Open letter to the Labor Members of Tasmania's next Parliament

by email: members@tas.alp.org.au

Dear Members

Congratulations on your election to the Tasmanian House of Assembly, with representation in all electorates.

Here at *Our Place* we were very pleased that the ALP came out so early in the campaign identifying a new stadium at Macquarie Point as the wrong priority.

We sincerely hope that your position in this regard won't change in the new Parliament, where the majority of successful candidates have expressed concern over the redistribution of funds from the State's primary responsibilities of health, housing and education to a vanity project that will only plunge the state further into debt.

Throughout the campaign we interrogated every aspect of the stadium proposal and concluded that:

- it's not needed and any funding to the AFL should be spent building a local team from the grass-roots level, while games are played at two existing, perfectly adequate facilities that could be upgraded at a fraction of the cost;
- it's too expensive and will place an unaffordable burden on future generations of Tasmanians – the funding agreement places all the risks on the State when all the rewards benefit the AFL, media and gambling corporations;
- it lacks social licence – we were never asked if we wanted a third AFL ground and the lack of transparency, with secret deals signed behind closed doors and without reference to Cabinet or even Treasury, alienated many Tasmanians from their neighbours and caused a loss of faith in the previous government to steer us through the precarious economic times ahead (as evidenced by the 12% swing against them); and
- it's in the wrong location – a structure that meets the stated specifications simply won't fit on-site, and the geo-engineering needed to support such a heavy building on unstable land was not costed prior to signing the contract.

We believe that Labor was right in its initial scepticism with the Premier's proposal for a stadium at Macquarie Point. That scepticism was only confirmed for all of us as the campaign unfolded, with more revelations about the lack of transparency surrounding the contract, the lack of planning in selecting the wrong site, and the previous Government's unfunded commitments in an economic environment of increasing annual deficits and ballooning State debt.

We now need you to 'maintain the rage' and look forward to working with you over the coming months to see this ridiculous proposal finally expunged from the new parliament's agenda.

Yours faithfully



Roland Browne
10 April 2024