

18 July 2024

The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP  
Premier of Tasmania  
Executive Building  
15 Murray Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Premier,

I write to remind you of the historic, cultural and spiritual significance of the Hobart Cenotaph to the Tasmanian Community, especially to Returned and Current Service Personnel and their Families.

The Cenotaph was purposely sited on vital ground in 1925 to command important sightlines. The sightlines to the Derwent Estuary, Battery Point and St Georges Church will be blocked by the stadium 1.0 plans that have been released publicly. These impacts cannot be avoided because of the height and bulk of the stadium. At 54 metres tall, and only 96 metres from the Cenotaph, the stadium will dwarf the Cenotaph.

RSL Tasmania has been clear and steadfast from the start, it has always known the stadium would dominate the Cenotaph and we have always known it would destroy key sightlines. The RSL has been disrespected and misled at every turn, be that by State Growth, MPDC or Cox Architecture, with the former telling us it would be no more than 40 metres high at our Congress in 2023, and the latter stating only six weeks ago in a meeting with us that it would be six stories.

Premier Sir, the very essence of the Cenotaph is its sightlines, to destroy these sightlines is to desecrate, humiliate and play little more than lip service to our sacred place.

**The Cenotaph is a sacred place. RSL Tasmania can not, and will not, stand by and do nothing.**

No development should be permitted that obscures the Cenotaph from these sightlines. Sightlines which have been rightly protected by the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme for decades.

Premier, at the launch of the stadium 1.0 design, the Minister for Sport and Events, Nic Street pledged that the Tasmanian Government *"wouldn't be interested in building something that wasn't sympathetic to the Cenotaph."*

RSL Tasmania now calls on you to honour that pledge. And in doing so:

- Acknowledge that the MPDC stadium 1.0 design desecrates the Cenotaph.
- Acknowledge that the stadium 1.0 design destroys important sightlines currently protected by the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme.
- Acknowledge that the height and bulk of stadium 1.0 situated in front of, and so close to, the Cenotaph will invade the space and negatively impact its cultural and spiritual significance.

RSL Tasmania supports Tasmania having its own AFL Team. We are mindful of the social and economic benefits it will bring. It is for that reason we have worked closely with the Stadium Precinct Consortia (SPC) over many months to get a design for stadium 2.0 that we can endorse. I am pleased to confirm that stadium 2.0 has our support.

We are aware the SPC has lodged a formal submission with the government that is fully costed and fully funded. We ask you to adopt this proposal and abandon any further consideration of stadium 1.0.

Finally, we ask that you agree to meet with our President and myself at your earliest convenience, so that we can present our concerns in person to you.

For transparency this letter will be sent to all Tasmanian State and Federal MP's.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hardy', is positioned above the typed name.

John Hardy  
**CEO, RSL Tasmania**  
[john.hardy@rsltas.org.au](mailto:john.hardy@rsltas.org.au)