

# STADIUMS TASMANIA

## STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

June 2024

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### Introduction

Stadiums Tasmania is an authority established by the Tasmanian Government under the *Stadiums Tasmania Act 2022*. Its purpose is to oversee the sound use, management operations, maintenance and investment in major public stadiums and related assets in Tasmania, with the aim of maximising the economic and community benefits provided by Tasmania's major public stadia infrastructure.

This statement has been released by the Minister for Sport and Events, in consultation with the Treasurer and the authority's board. It sets out the Government's broad expectations in respect to the authority's responsibilities and is to be read in conjunction with the Act. It takes effect from the date it is signed and is to remain in effect for three years unless amended or revoked.

### Functions and powers

The board of Stadiums Tasmania is to administer and enforce the provisions contained in the Act and operate in a manner consistent with policies published from time to time by the Tasmanian Government.

The Act's functions, powers, and responsibilities are vested in the board as the custodian of Tasmania's major stadia, and the management, operation and maintenance of venues that host local, state, national, and international sporting, entertainment, and community events.

### Strategic Expectations

In undertaking its functions, the Authority is expected to:

- Establish itself to be commercially minded, generate income and be as self-sustaining as possible, while meeting public benefits and various community service obligations.
- Ensure the effective and efficient operation of Tasmania's major public stadia, that they remain fit for purpose and meet the future needs of sporting codes and other users.
- Attract and host national and international events.
- Work collaboratively with the Department of State Growth, Brand Tasmania and Tourism Tasmania to deliver broader economic and community outcomes.
- Help to facilitate the continual development of Tasmania's major stadia.

### Designated Stadia and Roles

Five existing stadia have been earmarked for transfer to Stadiums Tasmania, being UTAS Stadium (York Park, Launceston), the Silverdome (Launceston), Blundstone Arena (Bellerive Oval, Bellerive), My State Bank Arena (Glenorchy) and Dial Park (Penguin).

All transfers are required to be by agreement with the existing land and asset owners.

Stadiums Tasmania will fulfill the owner and client roles pre- and post-transfer for any Government-funded and delivered capital upgrades to the above-mentioned five designated stadia, such as that being undertaken at UTAS Stadium, within a broader governance structure and in consideration of the *Financial Management Act 2016*.

Stadiums Tasmania will fulfill the presumptive-owner and client role in the development of the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium project in Hobart.

Stadiums Tasmania will also support the precinct proponent and capital delivery entities (Department of State Growth and Macquarie Point Development Corporation) of these projects, until such time as the stadium development is complete and the land transferred to Stadiums Tasmania, at which point Stadium Tasmania will assume the owner, manager and operator roles.

Stadiums Tasmania will have a representative within all Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium project delivery governance structures, but will not be responsible for construction.

### **Immediate Priorities**

The authority's immediate priorities are expected to include:

- Prepare the authority to commence and assume responsibility for the initial stadia that are expected to transfer during 2024, namely, the Silverdome and UTAS Stadium.
- Progress plans to assume responsibility for MyState Bank Arena that are expected to transfer in late 2024 and negotiations on the transfer of Blundstone Arena which is expected to transfer during 2025.
- Work with the Central Coast Council and the Department of State Growth to determine the most appropriate ownership arrangement for Dial Park.
- Negotiate an agreement with each stadium land and asset owner, by firstly undertaking an appropriate due diligence process that takes account of commercial, legal, operational, infrastructure and community matters and secondly developing a terms sheet to satisfaction of the Minister and Treasurer, as per section 7(2) of the Act, that will form the basis for a formal agreement.
- Recognising the board only commenced in early 2023, it is expected to develop a comprehensive business plan for 2024-25.
- Developing an approach that enables Stadiums Tasmania to operate in a commercial manner that maximises value for the state whilst adhering to public policy directions and prescribed community service obligations.
- Support, as far as reasonably practicable, the ongoing co-location of the Tasmanian Institute of Sport and Active Tasmania at the Silverdome, including recognition of the development and investment by the Tasmanian Government in this important TIS facility and its ongoing operations, and the importance of the TIS's reliance on the cycling infrastructure available at the Silverdome.
- Attract, engage, and develop national and international content, by facilitating, securing, and supporting content and event development in partnership with key stakeholders.

- Work with the Department of State Growth on the preparation and delivery of future business cases for Government consideration on assets that could transfer into Stadiums Tasmania.
- Develop and comply with public policy directions and prescribed community service obligations, as agreed by the Minister.

### **Three-year strategic stadia plan**

The authority is expected to deliver a three-year strategic plan for Stadiums Tasmania by 31 July 2024. The plan is expected to be developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

This plan should identify regional and statewide needs and opportunities to attract, develop, host, or sponsor national and international content; high-level strategic, capital, commercial and operational priorities that will help to prioritise future initiatives and establish a blueprint that sets a long-term vision for stadium capital infrastructure projects that deliver cross-generational benefits.

It is expected to identify any additional sporting assets in Tasmania that, with development, could provide greater regional or statewide benefits or access and may benefit from being transferred to the Authority.

## **Governance**

### **Corporate Governance and Operations**

The authority is to maintain high standards of corporate governance and accountability. The inaugural board is expected to develop and maintain the currency of policies, procedures and processes that ensure it performs its functions proficiently, consistently, effectively, and transparently, and operates in a commercially-oriented and community-minded manner.

The board is to ensure its policies, services and programs align with the *Tasmanian Women's Strategy*, and deliberately manage and address bias that may inadvertently disadvantage girls or women.

### **Communication with the Minister**

To meet Ministerial obligations to Parliament and the public, the board is expected to:

- Provide regular information on the authority's operations and performance through the Department of State Growth.
- Promptly advise of any changes regarding the appointments of Board members or the Chief Executive Officer and liaise with the Minister and the Department of State Growth on required appointments.
- Maintain proactive and collaborative lines of communication with Ministerial offices and the Department of State Growth on a regular basis, when managing major risks and when preparing to make major public announcements.
- Flag, in a timely manner, information regarding any significant issues affecting the authority's capacity to achieve the objectives and fulfil its functions under the Act.

## **Financial obligations**

In meeting its financial obligations, the authority is to:

- Apply the Treasurer's Instructions, unless otherwise exempt by the Treasurer.
- Borrow, invest, and seek capital contributions in accordance with Part 5 of the Act.
- Keep accounting records that record and explain its transactions and financial position.
- Keep the Minister informed of any significant issues, or potential risks that may affect the authority's financial performance.
- Act with a high level of fiscal responsibility.

## **Risk Management**

Stadiums Tasmania is to identify business and financial risks and to have in place risk management strategies that recognise, and are commensurate with, the authority's risk profile.

The board must notify the Government of any risks or developments which may:

- Have a significant impact on the board performing and exercising the authority's functions, powers, and responsibilities under the Act.
- Prevent or significantly affect the board achieving the performance objectives outlined in its strategic plan or business plan.
- Significantly affect the financial viability or operating ability of the authority.

## **Reporting**

The board is to prepare and deliver an annual report in accordance with the Act. It may also be requested to provide additional information, data and reports on the authority's activities and financial position by the Minister, given their responsibilities under the Act.

## **Operational expectations**

### **Relationship with other entities**

Having regard to the above designated stadia and roles, Stadiums Tasmania and its portfolio department are to maintain clear and open lines of communication with each other.

Stadiums Tasmania, as the owner and client of designated stadiums, will work respectfully, accountably, and collaboratively with its portfolio department to deliver major capital projects.

The TIS's longstanding co-location at the Silverdome should be recognised in any future agreements. The TIS is expected to contribute its fair share of operational expenses, including rent, utilities, maintenance and capital expenses for the space it occupies. The cost of athletes' use of the Silverdome, is expected to be limited as a community service obligation and priority given to athlete training at critical times in national and international competition preparation, such as for Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and world championships.

The authority is expected to regularly engage with key Crown, external stakeholders, including stadia owners, user groups, peak bodies, local government, adjacent businesses and neighbours, Department of State Growth, Brand Tasmania, Crown Law and Tourism Tasmania.

Its functions are expected to complement and not duplicate the work of other portfolios.

### **Relationship with the Tasmanian community**

Stadiums Tasmania will be expected to proactively communicate and engage with all key stakeholders and the broader Tasmanian community, with a view to the assets under its management being cornerstones of their communities. The Tasmanian public should feel an 'ownership' of these significant stadium assets, and a pride in their ongoing development.

### **Legal advice**

In keeping with Treasurer's Instruction FC-17 *Engagement of Legal Practitioners* Stadiums Tasmania must obtain all legal advice from Law Officers of the Crown and not directly engage external counsel or commercial legal services without the written agreement of Crown Law unless an exemption to this TI is obtained from the Treasurer.

### **Workplace Health and Safety**

Stadiums Tasmania is to develop an annual Work Health and Safety Policy, reviewed annually, to ensure a healthy and safe work environment for all staff, visitors and contractors.

### **Capital Asset Management**

I expect the authority will:

- Develop asset management plans for its stadia venues and regularly review them to ensure maintenance needs and future investment opportunities are identified and addressed.
- Ensure that any feasibility studies the authority conducts and any capital investment proposals it develops are rigorous and offer a considered analysis that help to inform decisions.
- Apply the Treasurer's Capital Investment Guidelines and notify the Minister and Treasurer of any proposed new major capital investment initiatives it intends to pursue.



Hon Nic Street MP  
**Minister for Sport and Events**