

The Honourable Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier of Tasmania
Level 10, 15 Murray Street
HOBART, TAS 7000

27th February 2023

Dear Premier,

For nearly 100 years, the Hobart Cenotaph has stood to commemorate what our great Island state has given in the never-ending fight for freedom and justice.

The Cenotaph is a place to reflect, a chance to stop and think in this ever-increasing tempo of the world we live in. It stands as a gatekeeper to our beautiful city. It tells the world that we Tasmanians will always be diligent, and we will always do our part. It says that we understand the struggles that we all have and reminds us that nothing is free, and everything has a cost.

The forefathers understood this cost, as do all the Veterans of our beautiful Island; they know some things will be paid for in blood, sweat and tears. All they and their families have ever asked is that we remember them, whether in wellbeing support for our living Veterans or a place to gather to remember, to commemorate in recognition of their service. For RSL Tasmania, there must never be anything more sacred, more sacrosanct than this.

Over the last three months, RSL Tasmania has engaged with State Government and Sub-Branches regarding the Stadium proposed for Macquarie Point. We have discussed all the views and evidence that has been presented. We have conducted ourselves in an Apolitical way to ensure that we only ever concerned ourselves with the Cenotaph and the environmental impact of the proposed stadium. All information received was disseminated, discussed and considered.

Premier, Sir, I must inform you as the CEO of RSL Tasmania State Branch that I have been instructed by the President, Board Directors, and Sub-Branches that we are opposed to the Stadium at Macquarie Point due to the environmental and cultural impact on our World-class Cenotaph. We believe that the Tasmanians that erected this obelisk as an out pouring of unmeasurable grief after their loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice, would stand beside us shoulder to shoulder.

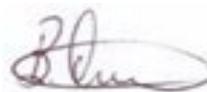
RSL Tasmania is supportive of the AFL, and of a stadium or stadiums in Tasmania, but not at such a site of such cultural impact, Lest We Forget. The AFL has always supported Veterans, it is a working persons game, and I believe the AFL will understand our issue. The Veterans of this Island know that we must prosper, and that far too often Tasmanian representation is neglected on a national stage. But more than most, we also understand that some things are worth fighting for, and we must be forever vigilant.

RSL Tasmania values our positive productive relationship with State Government and looks forward to continuing this into the future. For the sake of transparency, this communication will be shared with all our members.

Your humble servant,



John Hardy
CEO, RSL Tasmania



Barry Quinn
President, RSL Tasmania