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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

Guy Barnett, Member for Lyons

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Labor's rank hypocrisy on display at Macquarie Point inquiry

Tasmanian Labor are again showing that they are headline hunting hypocrites during today's Public Accounts Committee inquiry into details of the proposed Arts, Entertainment and Sports Precinct at Macquarie Point.

“This project will literally be a game-changer for Tasmania and help secure our much sought-after AFL team and put Tasmania on the national and global map,” Minister Barnett said.

“It will support broader urban renewal activities across Greater Hobart, with a flow-on effect across the city and state, bringing more housing, jobs, investment confidence and attracting events, business and tourism. It will allow attract hotel developments and provide conferencing facilities that Tasmania currently lacks.

“The project will also complement and integrate with the Antarctic Science Precinct to cement Hobart's role as the Gateway to the Antarctic, and be recognised across the world as a leading scientific hub for Antarctica.

“Perhaps embattled Labor leader Rebecca White wants Tasmanians to forget that less than two years ago (April 2021) it was Labor's policy to build a 15,000-seat stadium in Hobart.

“Despite having no business case, no team, no site, no identified market and no idea of cost or design, Labor's media release said: “Rebecca White said the stadium would be suitable to host professional football and rugby, along with helping attract other sporting and live music events to the state.”

“The release goes on to say: “This stadium will be based in Hobart and will be capable of hosting events across a number of sports, along with potential for hosting large capacity concerts and events ... a majority Labor Government will build one.”

“And, to round it off, Labor didn't bother submitting this policy to Treasury for election costings and independent analysis during the caretaker period.

“In contrast, our plan is accompanied by costings, a business case, a cost-benefit analysis, a market, an identified location and most importantly a team.

“This job creating, city shaping project also unlocks hundreds of millions of dollars in urban renewal, economic potential and jobs.

“However, for pure political expediency, Ms White and Labor have backflipped – if Hobart needed a new stadium for sports and major events in 2021, what has changed apart from chasing a cheap headline?

“At least the marginalised former leader David O’Byrne still stands by the need for a new stadium in Hobart and supports the vision of the Rockliff Liberal Government to transform the waterfront. In short, David O’Byrne supports the project, Rebecca White is against it. Labor are divided.

“And, Prime Minister Albanese has also spoken positively about the project and the Australian Government is actively considering the business case.

“As the Tasmanian Government has repeatedly said, if the Federal Government can spend billions knocking down and rebuilding the Gabba Stadium and also spend billions on new stadiums and facilities in Victoria, why shouldn’t Tasmania get its fair share of stadium infrastructure that would also secure our own AFL team.

“Labor continue to think small and hold Tasmania back. We’re backing Tasmania in to achieve great things.

“It is little wonder why Tasmanian Labor is under federal administration – one minute they promise to build a stadium and the next minute they oppose it for cheap political gain,” Minister Barnett said.

Everybody knows Tasmanian Labor stands for nothing - they have no policies, no vision and they would send the economy into recession just like they did in 2014 when they lost 10,000 jobs.

See Labor 2021 stadium policy statement here:

<https://taslabor.com/a-majority-labor-government-commits-to-a-boutique-rectangular-stadium-in-hobart/>