

Tasmania renews its sponsorship of footy in the US

Elise Kaine

Tasmania will again be the face of the AFL in the US after the government announced its sponsorship agreement would be extended another three years.

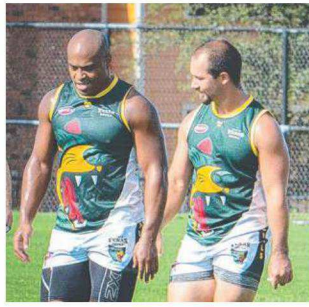
Premier Jeremy Rockliff said the extension of the United States Australian Football League (USAFL) sponsorship was building on the momentum for AFL in the state, as passions for the sport run deep.

"This commitment comes at a perfect time, as momentum builds around the debut of our Tasmania Devils football team into the AFL for the 2028 season," Mr Rockliff said.

He said the alliance had proved mutually beneficial over the past two years, creating "valuable opportunities" for Tasmanian businesses to connect with the US market which he said was Tasmania's third most valuable goods export market and an important tourism market.

The sponsorship will be in place until the end of the 2026 season.

"The Tasmanian government is delivering key investments to help keep our economy strong and create jobs in Tasmania," Mr Rockliff said.



North Texas Devils play in the USAFL competition.

USAFL Executive Director Doren James said the partnership was thriving – with "unprecedented growth" for the USAFL past year, including record participation rates.

"The support of Tasmania is instrumental as we strive to build on this momentum with the implementation of a fresh marketing strategy this year," he said.

He said the USAFL was committed to showcasing Tasmania as a unique tourist destination, provider of high-quality products and a reputable brand.

Mr Rockliff said the recent attainment of an AFL club license created new avenues for market expansion in the US.

He said the introduction of the Tasmania Devils club added to this opportunity.

STADIUM JOBS 'MUST STAY IN THE STATE'

Duncan Abey

Opposition Leader Dean Winter has called on the state government to develop a clear plan to prioritise Tasmanian contractors in the construction of a new stadium at Macquarie Point, as critics lined up to slam Labor over the timing of its surprise policy backflip.

Speaking at the Bridgewater Bridge redevelopment at Granton on Tuesday, a day after announcing Labor had dumped the anti-stadium stance it had taken to recent the House of Assembly and Legislative Council elections, Mr Winter said a local content plan was essential to ensure the state's workforce received the maximum possible benefit from the project.

"The last thing Tasmania needs is a repeat of the Royal Hobart Hospital redevelopment with countless contractors coming from outside the state and leaving just as quickly," Mr Winter said.

"Good Tasmanian jobs can be generated through a robust procurement process that maximises opportunities for Tassie businesses who have a track record of offering safe, secure and well-paid jobs.

"I've said we'll continue to hold Jeremy Rockliff to ac-



count for delivering this stadium and a local content plan is a key part of that."

Under an agreement signed

between Premier Rockliff and the AFL, Tasmania's entry into the national competition remains contingent on a new,

23,000-seat roofed stadium being built at Hobart's Macquarie Point.

As a group behind the alter-



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CFMEU's Shaun Williams (left), Sarah de Salis and Paul Bone with Labor MLC Luke Edmunds, Labor leader Dean Winter, MP Jen Butler, CEPU state secretary Mick Anderson and CFMEU's Jeremy Williams and Jim Stuhrt at Bridgewater. Picture: Chris Kidd



A concept drawing of a Macquarie Point Stadium by the Stadia Precinct Consortia led by Dean Coleman.

Battle heats up in big Mac design

'Exciting announcement' in next few days

native "Mac 2.0" stadium proposal prepares to make an announcement on funding over coming days few days, independent member of parliament Meg Webb called on the Labor Party to disclose whether its pro-stadium stance had been agreed before the weekend's elections in the Legislative Council seats of Prosser, Elwick, and Hobart.

Ms Webb said that right up until Saturday, ALP candidates had been advising voters that the stadium was "not a priority" for the party and required further community consultation.

"In the interests of transparency Dean Winter must disclose when Tasmanian Labor caucus and Parliamentary Labor Party met to discuss and finalise this change of

position, whether he received majority support to adopt the backflip position, and also when Labor informed the AFL of their change of position – was it before or after the 4th May upper house elections," Ms Webb said.

"Public trust in our governance system was already teetering on a knife-edge and, regardless of whether you are



Independent MLC Meg Webb.

for or against the stadium, this is a serious failure of political integrity from Labor and detrimental to the health of our democracy. Tasmanian voters deserve honesty."

Greens infrastructure spokesman Vica Bayley said Labor had erred by backing a project that was "unlikely to happen", and questioned how many party members Mr Winter had consulted before reaching his new stadium position.

Mr Bayley said that when coupled with Labor's policy reversals on poker machine limits and donations reform, the party's stadium about-face reinforced existing community confusion over its political identity.

"I think the results in a range of upper house elections would have been very different if the Labor Party's position was clear," he said.

James Bresnehan

Proponents of Macquarie Point Stadium 2.0 will make an "exciting funding announcement" in the next few days to intensify the two-horse race for a 23,000-seat multi-purpose venue at Mac Point.

Despite Sports Minister Nic Street's "captain's call" on ruling out the alternative project, Mac2 is back in the game after Labor's stunning backflip to support a multi-purpose venue in Hobart as well as announcing its support for the commercially driven waterside Mac2 project.

Stadia Consortia managing director Dean Coleman, who has driven an innovative proposal for a stadium as part of a \$2.3bn Macquarie Point urban redevelopment, welcomed Labor's policy pivot.

"We welcome their support for our project and we are working hard to get all of our steps in place," Mr Coleman said. "We have been consulting closely with major investors and we will hopefully have an

exciting funding announcement this week."

Mac2 stadium is a roofed, 23,000-seat venue, expandable to 30,000 when demand outstrips seating availability.

The innovative design protrudes about 200m into the Derwent on its eastern side, and digs into the Cenotaph hillside on its western side.

The outer "skin" includes 450 apartments, a private hospital, hotel and convention centre, restaurants, supermarket, retail, RSL and Tasmanian Football Museum spaces.

"We are proposing a project that delivers significant cultural and community benefits beyond the economic and sporting aspirations of this once-in-a-lifetime project," Mr Coleman said.

"The consortia's vision is for a community precinct that all Tasmanians can be proud of, and which will stimulate Hobart's cultural and tourism sectors as Wrest Point did in the 1970s and Mona has done in the past 10 years.

"Our proposal doesn't take

up the whole site allowing room for other projects such as the Aboriginal Truth and Reconciliation Park."

Labor leader Dean Winter, who replaced Rebecca White after the election, said his party would now support the building of a stadium to promote employment opportunities.

"A stadium will mean thousands of jobs in construction, including hundreds of apprenticeships," Mr Winter said.

"That's why Labor will be backing a new stadium."

With the state government putting the pieces in place for a Mac1 stadium, Mr Street is not onboard with a Mac2 alternative, following his statement last month.

"The project includes a full roofed stadium as per the AFL agreement. Funding has been allocated and the formal planning process is under way," he said. "Given its commitment to deliver the Macquarie Point Urban Renewal Project, the Tasmanian government is not contemplating involvement in any alternate proposals."

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Clarence City Council

Notice of Public meeting – AFL/AFLW High Performance Centre

A petition has been received by Council under Section 59 of the Local Government Act, 1993 requesting Council hold a public meeting regarding the siting of the proposed AFL/AFLW High Performance Centre in Charles Hand Park and Rosny parklands and to discuss the concern raised by the petition around community consultation.

In accordance with Sections 59 and 60(3) of the Local Government Act a public meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at the Citywide Baptist Church, 400 Cambridge Road, Mornington.

Written submissions on the subject matter of the meeting may be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer by: mailing to PO Box 96 Rosny Park 7018; or emailing to clarence@ccc.tas.gov.au

Submissions must be received by 5:15 pm TODAY 8 May 2024

www.ccc.tas.gov.au



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