



## Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts

7 September 2026

John Perry  
Coordinator General  
Office of the Coordinator General

Email: [John.Perry@cg.tas.gov.au](mailto:John.Perry@cg.tas.gov.au)

Dear John

### Macquarie Point Stadium Costs and Governance – Request for Further Clarification

The Committee is seeking further clarification with respect to the evidence you provided at the Committee's public hearing held on 22 October 2025<sup>1</sup> in relation to the opinion piece published in *The Mercury* on Saturday, 11 October 2025.

It has been brought to the Committee's attention, following recent disclosures released under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI-25-26-29)<sup>2</sup>, a review of records against your sworn oral testimony at the public hearing and your written letter to the Committee (dated 31 October 2025)<sup>3</sup> has identified several direct discrepancies that require your clarification.

During the public hearing, you gave evidence that while you presented your underlying economic analysis to ministers, you had not provided the draft opinion piece itself to the Premier or ministers beforehand. In your letter of 31 October 2025, you stated that you directly emailed the Premier, Treasurer, and Chief of Staff on 10 October 2025 strictly as a 'heads up' after passing the text to media contacts.

However, RTI records show that on 8 October 2025 (Document 18), you emailed a draft of the opinion piece directly to Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) staff and the Premier's Chief of Staff. Furthermore, emails from 3 October 2025 imply that DPAC staff were already reviewing the timing of the piece a week prior, requesting that its release be delayed to align with the Government's response to the Tasmanian Planning Commission report.

In your oral evidence, you also stated that the opinion piece was produced entirely on your own volition, noting that you merely sought some input from people outside government. Your letter of 31 October 2025 further characterised these external parties simply as 'people who do have regular contact with the media' to distribute the piece on your behalf. The RTI documents appear to imply a far more extensive co-drafting and editing process, showing that draft narrative iterations were sent to Ms Kathryn McCann (Tasmania Football Club) for feedback as early as 14 August 2025, and that Ms Jenna Cairney (CEO, Master Builders Tasmania) subedited the text, drafted an accompanying press release, and assisted with media strategy throughout early October 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> See 'Public Hearings (22 October 2025) - Office of the Co-ordinator-General',

[https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0037/97993/PAC-22-Oct-2025-Mac-Point-Stadium-Project-FINAL.pdf](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0037/97993/PAC-22-Oct-2025-Mac-Point-Stadium-Project-FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See 'John Perry's Opinion Piece, Building Tasmania Disclosure Log, RTI 25-26-29 Record 1 (PDF),

[https://www.building.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/647446/RTI-25-26-29-Record-1.PDF](https://www.building.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/647446/RTI-25-26-29-Record-1.PDF)

<sup>3</sup> See 'Letter to Chair from Office of the Co-ordinator-General - Response to Question on Notice (31 Oct 2025)',

[https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0033/98646/Coordinator-General-Letter-PAC-Hearing-Question-on-Notice\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0033/98646/Coordinator-General-Letter-PAC-Hearing-Question-on-Notice_Redacted.pdf)



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Finally, while the opinion piece was presented to the Committee as a general public explanation regarding State debt versus operational deficits, email records from 18 September, 9 October and 10 October 2025 indicate an explicit strategy to use the analysis to conduct targeted briefings for key Upper House Independent Legislative Council members prior to parliamentary votes.

The Committee requests a written explanation to the following questions:

1. Why did you inform the Committee the draft opinion piece had not been provided to ministers or the Premier's office before you sent it to the media?
2. Do you accept the documentation demonstrates that you did send the draft opinion piece to DPAC and the Premier's Chief of Staff, and how do you explain the apparent inconsistency between the timeline in your letter to the Committee and the email records of 8 October 2025?
3. Why was the extent of the co-drafting, editing, and strategic media coordination with key stakeholder groups omitted from your oral and written evidence?
4. Do you consider your level of collaboration with proponent bodies complies with your statutory obligations to act apolitically and impartially as accorded under section 7 (State Service Principles) and section 9(13) (The State Service Code of Conduct) under the *State Service Act 2000*? and
5. Were the opinion piece and its underlying model developed as part of a coordinated strategy to influence members of the Legislative Council ahead of the parliamentary vote?
6. Was it your idea to prepare an opinion piece or was it suggested to you that you do so? If it was suggested to you, who by and when?

As noted in the Parliament's 'Information for Witnesses'<sup>4</sup>, you are reminded 'a committee hearing is a proceeding in Parliament. As such, a witness must not deliberately mislead the committee and must respect the members of the committee and the committee's standing orders and procedures. A witness who wilfully gives false evidence is guilty of contempt'.

A written response addressing the above questions is required by 4:00 pm **Friday, 18 September 2026** to the Committee Secretary, Simon Scott (email [Simon.Scott@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:Simon.Scott@parliament.tas.gov.au)).

The Committee looks forward to receiving your response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Forrest'.

**Hon Ruth Forrest MLC**  
**Chair**

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<sup>4</sup> See 'Information for Witnesses', Parliament of Tasmania, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/information-for-witnesses>