



4 September 2026

The Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC  
Chair  
Public Accounts Committee  
[pac@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:pac@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Chair,

We write regarding the evidence given by Coordinator-General, Mr John Perry, to the Committee on 22 October 2025.

Mr Perry was asked to appear before the Committee to provide further detail on an economic analysis and opinion piece he published in the Mercury detailing his views on the benefits and affordability of the Macquarie Point Stadium.

Throughout his evidence given to the Committee, Mr Perry repeatedly stated the work was “my view” and “my opinion piece”.

The ABC this week published a story which alleged that Tasmania Devils CMO, Ms Kathryn McCann, and Master Builders’ Association CEO, Ms Jenna Cairney, had significant involvement in the development of the opinion piece.

Further, the Committee questioned Mr Perry on the involvement and knowledge of government of the analysis and opinion piece.

Mr Perry stated that he, “presented the analysis, not the opinion piece, but the analysis to the minister and the Premier beforehand”. He provided further evidence to the Committee saying the following:

*Because I do not have direct contact with the media, on Friday 10 October 2025 I provided my final version of the opinion piece to people who do have regular contact with the media to release my opinion piece on my behalf and to deal directly with the media in relation to it. I then subsequently directly emailed the Premier, Treasurer and the Premier’s Chief of Staff (i.e. also on 10 October 2025) and attached a copy of my opinion piece as a heads up of what was being provided to the media. The opinion piece was published in various publications on Saturday, 11 October 2025*

There are a number of apparent omissions in this evidence.

The documents released to the ABC show that, in fact, Mr Perry provided an unfinished draft of the opinion piece to Ms McCann, the Premier’s Chief of Staff and the Deputy Secretary of DPAC on 8 October, with a request for them to give him a call to discuss further if they so wished – not simply a “heads up” of a finished piece.

Further, Mr Perry did not disclose in his evidence before the Committee that the, “people who do have regular contact with the media” he shared his piece with were Ms McCann from the

Tasmania Devils and Ms Cairney from the Master Builders' Association – who coincidentally was formerly the head of the government media office.

In his evidence, Mr Perry said that he spoke to the government media office to “get approval” to release the editorial.

The documents released to the ABC indicate that rather, a media strategy was developed in concert with Ms McCann and Ms Cairney, and the DPAC Deputy Secretary requested that the release of the piece coincide with the Government's release of their response to the Tasmanian Planning Commission's final report.

This indicates not merely 'approval' from the government to publish a piece, but coordination and strategic preparation with government and interested stakeholders to ensure its publication would be most useful to their shared interest.

Public servants are required by the Code of Conduct to act in accordance with State Service principles, including to ensure that all actions of the agency are “independent from the party political system, political bias and political influence”.

Mr Perry had the opportunity to disclose the close involvement of the Tasmania Devils, the Master Builders' Association, and the Premier's staff in developing this opinion piece when questioned by the Public Accounts Committee on 22 October, but he failed to do so.

We question why this information was not provided in his evidence, and why when given the opportunity to search his personal records to locate the specific details of when the government was provided a copy of the opinion piece, the Coordinator-General failed to disclose the draft sent to the Premier's Chief of Staff and the DPAC Deputy Secretary on 8 October.

We respectfully request the Committee considers recalling the Coordinator-General, to give him the opportunity to provide further information on these apparent omissions, and to correct the record if required.

We also respectfully request you also invite related parties named in the RTI documents - including Ms McCann, Ms Cairney, the Premier's Chief of Staff, the Deputy Secretary of DPAC, and senior staff in the Office of the Coordinator-General - to appear before the Committee and provide further information on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP**  
Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

**Cassy O'Connor MLC**  
Member for Hobart

**Vica Bayley MP**  
Greens Deputy Leader