



Current status

In April 2021, the Tasmanian Government announced plans to establish Stadiums Tasmania, a new statutory authority, to oversee the sound use, management and future development of Tasmania's major public stadiums and related assets. The *Stadiums Tasmania Bill 2021* has been developed in response to this commitment.

Stadiums Tasmania Bill 2021

The establishment of Stadiums Tasmania will centralise the ownership, management, and future capital development of major stadium assets under a single entity with a statewide perspective. It will ensure the effective and efficient operation of these assets; ensure they remain fit for purpose; continue to meet the future needs of sporting codes, other users, and their audiences; and further develop staff expertise in stadium management.

Stadiums Tasmania is expected to assume responsibility initially for up to four stadiums,

MyState Bank Arena in Hobart and the Silverdome in Launceston, both of which are already owned by the Crown. The potential inclusion of UTas Stadium in Launceston, which is owned by the City of Launceston, and Blundstone Arena in Hobart, owned by the City of Clarence and Cricket Tasmania, is yet to be confirmed.

Transfer agreements will be negotiated for how these stadium transfers occur.

The Stadiums Tasmania Bill 2021 contains the following features

- The establishment of a new contemporary and bespoke statutory authority, whose features are largely drawn from provisions within existing Tasmanian legislation;
- A suite of functions that highlight the important range of duties, roles and responsibilities being assigned to the Board and staff of Stadiums Tasmania;
- A range of powers and provisions that will equip Stadiums Tasmania to achieve an appropriate balance of being commercially focused and community minded;

- Establishing a skills-based Board of five to seven members, with qualifications, experience, and expertise in areas critical to the authority's success; and
- Provisions that maximise transparency, including a statement of expectations, Ministerial directions, annual audit, and report, and need to develop a triennial strategic plan and business plans.

KPMG is assisting Government to develop a sound profile of each of these stadiums, encompassing their features, finances, and operational arrangements. This task will establish a clear picture of all the stadiums' assets, liabilities, agreements, employees, and employee entitlements that will need to be considered. This work will help to guide future discussions and negotiations, and the due diligence and transfer processes.

A staged approach is being used to implement Stadiums Tasmania.

The *Stadiums Tasmania Bill 2021* will establish this new statutory authority. It will equip it with the leadership and personnel it needs to commence operations, inform the due diligence, and transition process for stadium transfers, and develop its organisational structure and operational systems. As part of this process, the Government expects to advertise and appoint a suitably qualified Executive Chairperson to initially lead the authority. This role will then revert to a non-executive chairperson.

A subsequent Bill will then be prepared for introduction in 2022. This will facilitate the stadium transfer process, address any consequential amendments needed based on the completed due diligence process, and ensure the smooth transition of all stadium related assets, contracts, liabilities, and employees agreed to transfer.

The 2021 State Budget included a nominal recurrent appropriation for Stadiums Tasmania. A financial profile of each stadium and the budgetary requirements for their inclusion will be independently developed. This information will be presented to Government and used to guide any future appropriations that will be needed by this new entity. Stadiums Tasmania is expected to be established in late 2021, commence operating in early 2022 and start to assume responsibility for the agreed stadiums from mid-2022.

To access a copy of this Bill, go to - <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/Bills/current/BillWeb.html>

What if I have a question?

The most current and up to date information on progress to establish Stadiums Tasmania will be made available on the Department of State Growth website www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/infrastructure_tasmania.

While Stadiums Tasmania is being established, individual stadiums will continue to operate as usual. If you have a question about a specific stadium, please continue to liaise with your usual contact person at the stadium that you are involved. This aims to keep things as business as usual for staff, users, local groups, and others.

Trevor Gibson (Project Manager) or Pete Smith (Project Director) can also be contacted at ITas if questions arise at Level 6, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart, (03) 616 64921 or at - itas@stategrowth.tas.gov.au.

Project updates will be released online and provided to each stadium to distribute at key milestones.