



4 September 2023

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Senate Inquiry | Australian Antarctic Division Funding

I write to place on the record TasPorts commitment to its relationship with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) and to strengthening the Port of Hobart's position as the international gateway to the Southern Ocean.

The Macquarie Wharf Redevelopment Project is instrumental to the achievement of both through the development of a year-round dedicated and bespoke berth for the RSV *Nuyina*, alongside more capacity and better facilities for other Antarctic and Southern Ocean supply and research vessels.

TasPorts also remains committed delivering on the Australian Government's immediate priority being the upgrade of Wharf 6 to provide the RSV *Nuyina* with a working wharf throughout the season and lay-up berth when not at sea. The upgrades to Wharves 4 and 5 will follow to ensure further support polar and research programs, defence support and additional commercial opportunities.

It is clear from all levels of Government and related agencies that Australia wants to deliver on its interests in the region, and it is clear to Tasmanians that the Macquarie Wharf Redevelopment Project is the generational investment designed to get it there.

TasPorts steadfastly supports Hobart as the continuing home of AAD and the RSV *Nuyina*. It remains concerned about any move to dilute AAD's capacity to lead the Australian Government's scientific program in Antarctica which in turn would impact on Tasmania and the Port of Hobart's claim as international gateway to the Southern Ocean.

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