



Paula Wriedt, MP

Minister for Economic Development and
Tourism

Friday, 25 July 2008

Tassie AFL Push Continues

The Minister for Economic Development and Tourism, Paula Wriedt, today said Tasmania's bid for an AFL team continued to gather momentum.

Ms Wriedt said the steering committee met in Melbourne today to discuss the bid to date and map its future progression.

"The steering committee is determined to ensure that Tasmania puts the most compelling and sound case for a sustainable team to the AFL for consideration.

"With work underway on the business case, we are looking forward to being able to put the best case we can to the AFL by the end of this year."

Ms Wriedt said she had also taken the opportunity to meet with several people connected with the AFL to outline Tasmania's AFL push.

"There is a significant level of support for our bid among people who really understand the nuts and bolts of AFL football, and that is extremely encouraging.

"We are under no illusion that we have to convince the AFL that Tasmania not only deserves a team, but can sustain one.

"Our arguments cannot simply be based on our State's passion for the great game, but also need to make considerable business sense."

Ms Wriedt confirmed she had also met with AFL chair Mike Fitzpatrick.

"I was pleased to have the opportunity to update Mr Fitzpatrick on the excellent progress we have made so far.

"The meeting was constructive, and I was delighted that Mr Fitzpatrick assured me that our submission would receive a fair hearing and be considered on its merits."

I look forward to the AFL executive and the commission assessing our submission when it is lodged later this year."