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MEDIA RELEASE

Hospitality industry gives a big 'thumbs up' to more AFL Games for Tasmania

The Tasmanian Hospitality Association (THA), representing over 350 hotels, restaurants, cafes and accommodation venues in Tasmania has given the big 'thumbs up' to the rumoured 8 games of AFL for Tasmania each year.

The General Manager of the THA Mr Steve Old said "the view of our industry and board is very clear, the more AFL games in Tasmania the better".

"AFL football in Tasmania has been a massive winner for our industry and members, especially in the quieter winter months when our industry traditionally does it hard" Mr Old said.

"Our members in Launceston and the surrounding areas advise us that their venues are nearly full to capacity and the towns are really buzzing when AFL fever hits the state" Mr Old said.

"The state government and AFL Tasmania have been very strategic over many years on this issue and I believe that the hard work is about to pay off with Tasmania being rewarded with more games" Mr Old said.

"Eight (8) games of AFL football in Tasmania through our winter period will be a breath of fresh air for our industry, especially with the ever increasing rate for the Australian dollar and the negative impact that may have on visitors to our state. This deal is important to the whole state and we must all embrace it" Mr Old said.

"Hawthorn have done a wonderful job through the support of all Tasmanians and we hope to see them continue in Tasmania" Mr Old said

"But should they decline the offer of more games, we must embrace whichever club supports it and takes it on" Mr Old said

"8 games of AFL a season is the next logical step in Tasmania's bid for its own AFL side and that is what we all must strive for" Mr Old said

"We must continue to bring events to Tasmania throughout our winter period and nothing has proven more successful in Tasmania than AFL football and with that, we 100% support the 8game package for our state" Mr Old said.

"The hospitality industry in Tasmania employs over 23,000 people and we need events like this to keep our beds full in accommodation and our restaurants and bars pumping" Mr Old said.

**Steve Old, General Manager is available for comment on
(03) 6224 7033 or 0418 363 566**