There are some things on which tennis’ seven governing bodies agree.

The season is too long, deserves a more compelling year-long narrative - and ideally just one overriding power should be calling the shots.

But the future could come in many shapes and sizes.

There is the proposal for a Premium Tour, which could issue just 64 tour cards each year and culminate with promotion and relegation play-offs.

And there is a strong likelihood of greater Saudi Arabia involvement.

The WTA Finals are heading to Saudi capital Riyadh for each of the next three years, and by the end of a flurry of meetings in Madrid this week, the kingdom could be awarded a Masters 1,000 event on the ATP Tour.

A third string to Saudi Arabia's bow?

There are nine Masters 1,000 events on the ATP Tour, but the creation of a 10th - earmarked originally for either the first week of the year, or on grass before Wimbledon - has accelerated markedly in recent months.

Along with the WTA Finals, Saudi Arabia has already been awarded the Next Gen ATP Finals, the season-ending event for the best under-21 players in the world, while making very clear its ambition to stage a Masters 1,000.

Last month, the ATP issued a bidding invitation to Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi and Australia.

The bid deadline is this Wednesday, just hours before the ATP Board begins two days of meetings at which they could either identify a winner or opt for a second round of bidding.

Once the successful candidate is clear, for an event that would not start before 2027, it may well take at least 18 months to select a date in the calendar.

This is very likely to be in either January or February. Staging it in Saudi Arabia in the first week of the year would be considered a hostile gesture by Tennis Australia. It would no longer be able to stage the United Cup team competition and would lose its star male cast in the two weeks leading up to the Australian Open.

Staging it in February, in Saudi Arabia, would cause no issues with Tennis Australia but could imperil the existence of the traditional European indoor and South American clay events taking place at that time.

Another complication is that if the Saudis are successful, they would want to create a combined event with the women. There are currently no further licences available for WTA 1,000 events, and unless one was sold, existing owners - including those in Doha and Dubai - would have the ability to veto any expansion plans.

Troubled waters calming down The proposal of a Premium Tour has been described by those hostile to it as an “extreme and very aggressive alternative” to greater Saudi investment