



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY RECOMMENDS STADIUM AUSTRALIA REDEVELOPMENT NOT PROCEED UNTIL SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM REBUILD COMPLETE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
27 September 2018

The Upper House Public Works Committee has tabled its report into the Sydney stadiums strategy, recommending that the NSW Government not proceed with the redevelopment of Stadium Australia until construction of the new Sydney Football Stadium is completed.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Robert Brown MLC said: "The final business case for the refurbishment works at Stadium Australia will not be finalised until 2019. By this time, works at Sydney Football Stadium will have commenced and lessons may be learnt during the rollout that could inform the works at Stadium Australia. A key recommendation is for the NSW government to not proceed with the redevelopment of Stadium Australia until construction of the new Sydney Football Stadium is completed."

Mr Brown continued, "We recognise that the projects announced under the government's stadia strategy have not met the government's own infrastructure spending criteria. In addition, the government's failure to prioritise the release of business cases or other quality assurance processes in support of the stadia strategy has understandably led many in the community to question the government's motives in prioritising stadia, and the claimed benefits that superior stadia will deliver to New South Wales. In response, the committee has made several recommendations, including an independent audit of the assumptions contained in the business cases for the various stadia, and referral of the government's cost benefit analysis model to the Public Accountability Committee for further assessment."

While the committee recommended that works at Stadium Australia be postponed, it did not oppose the continuation of the works proposed for the Sydney Football Stadium. "On the evidence received, the committee has found that the significant safety and security concerns at the Sydney Football Stadium require immediate attention, and support the case to proceed with the demolition and rebuild of a facility in the Moore Park precinct", said Mr Brown.

Mr Brown added: "I note that yesterday, the Legislative Council resolved to vary the usual deadline for government responses set under the standing orders, to require that the response to this report be provided by 28 February 2019 – well before the March election. I look forward to receiving that response."

The committee's report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's webpage: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/sydneystadiums

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Brown MLC, on 9230 2573.