

**Submission
No 54**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Inquiry into Crown Land

1a. Use of Parramatta Park and surrounds- Crown Land.

Parramatta War Memorial Pool, situated on Crown Land (Parramatta Park) is to be demolished to make way for the redevelopment of Pirtek Stadium, used by the Parramatta Eels and Western Sydney Wanderers. In doing this, Parramatta will effectively lose a recreation facility to make way for a private development.

Parramatta War Memorial Pool is a rare memorial to World War 2 veterans and as such should not be removed. In 1959 the Local RSL and residents raised the money to construct the pool in an area that is 40km from the ocean and where many local waterways are not suitable for swimming. Indeed some residents still possess their certificates from 'buying' a tile to line the pool. \$9.5 million was spent to refurbish the pool in 2007-2008.

Parramatta War Memorial Pool is also a sort after open air facility. It consists of a diving tower and dedicated water polo pool, which are used by people from all over NSW during tournaments and training.

The pool is used regularly by residents and workers in Parramatta all year round. It is the home of free learn to swim lessons, about 120 children participate in these lessons every year. It is a place where young people learn vital life saving skills, where children learn to compete at the Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Club and Parramatta Water Polo Clubs.

At present this use of Crown Land is available to the whole community, whereas as a stadium it will not be used in the spirit of the Crown Lands Act and be available to all.

b. Consultation

Community consultation about the changes to this parcel of land has been minimal. At present stakeholders have not been told exactly what will be built on the land, other than a need to extend the stadium precinct and commercial development.

c. Preservation of the Crown Land that entails Parramatta Park is crucial. Any stadium development should not have negative implications for public use of Crown Land or for the heritage listed sites around it.

Maintaining recreational spaces as urban density increases is vital to society, and as such Parramatta Memorial Pool and its surrounds should be a priority.