

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

As a resident of the Parramatta area, I know what it's like to suffer through a record summer with no relief from the heat. Air conditioning, for example, is not a luxury all of us can afford to have in our own homes.

The Parramatta Pool was a place I could go to cool down and enjoy the benefits of exercise, as well as to meet other members of the community.

It was also a place where local children could learn to swim and complete their PE units.

On top of this, it was also a local business that provided something valuable to its community.

The demolition of the pool means:

- Children have to travel further to complete their PE units for school (this travel time would be eating into learning time), learn to swim and cool down over the summer holidays.
- Closure of a local business and job losses for the local community
- Not only the school children but others in Parramatta now have to travel outside their postcode to go to a pool. Not only is this inconvenient, but it puts further strain on those public facilities due to increased patronage and might result in crowding during peak times.

There is one final point about this that really makes no logical sense: this Pool was the only one in Parramatta. This pool has been demolished to make way for a stadium - the SECOND stadium in the Parramatta postcode.

The only facility of its kind in the area has been destroyed in order to make room for another building much like one we already have!

This decision would have been more understandable if Parramatta was coastal and had a local beach where kids could learn to swim and have a dip for free whenever they felt like it. This is not the case. Parramatta is a land-locked suburb and it takes at least half an hour to drive to a beach and can be over an hour of travel if you are public transport reliant, like me. Yes, the Parramatta river is open for bathing for periods of the year, but this really is an inadequate place to teach children to swim because it is not supervised by any lifeguards.

There have been no updates that I'm aware of regarding the construction of a new public pool in the near future. If there are plans for this, where will the funding come from? Will it come from the rate-payer? Why should we have to pay for another pool when we already had a perfectly good one? How is it fair to charge us twice for a pool, as well as wasting our money on a second stadium in the same postcode?