

**Submission
No 17**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Mr Rich Sanford

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am fundamentally opposed to the proposal to demolish and rebuild the Allianz Sydney Football Stadium at Moore Park. This specific opposition comes under a broad umbrella of contempt I hold for the current NSW government's misuse of taxpayer funds in various mismanaged, rushed and incompetently handled infrastructure projects (eg. Sydney Light Rail, Westconnex, the Sydney Powerhouse Museum, etc).

This proposal is a gross misuse of taxpayer funds. While the NSW government has flaunted their supposedly generous hospital revamping funding pool, the millions of dollars being spent there pales in comparison to the billions being allocated for this stadium project. It is clear also that the benefit-cost ratio is less than one, meaning the project will cost much more than the benefits it will bring in. This simple mistake must be noted carefully.

The project has been hastily fast-tracked and ineptly handled. Once again, this NSW government has a history of gross misconduct in this regard, and I only need to draw the Committee's attention to the Sydney Light Rail project to further support my point here. A criminally ill-conceived proposal to begin with, the Light Rail has been subject to a series of bungling incompetencies has left this project well behind schedule, over-budget, and now the focus of billion-dollar legal action against the NSW government! What faith does that give the community for future proposals? This government is wasting billions of dollars and it must stop.

The environmental impact of the recent Light Rail project, including the absolute devastation of countless century-old trees, is an absolute disgrace. With the stadium rebuild proposal likely to further decimate the local tree, bird and wildlife population, I must firmly and most emphatically state my opposition on these grounds. I teach Ethics at three local primary schools, and during these classes children are almost unanimously heartbroken and confused over the destruction of our local green spaces. What kind of message is this sending to future generations? This must stop. Now.

The ongoing disruption to the local community due to the Light Rail is yet another reason to firmly oppose the stadium demolition project. When one looks at the parties likely to benefit (ie. those with a financial interest in creating a huge entertainment precinct in the area), and those likely to suffer (ie. almost everyone else), it is clear that the government is not serving the community but a small handful of investors and business-people. The community is likely to, once again, lose out while the government and the business interests thrive. This is not the community I want to live in or raise my children in.

I firmly and emphatically stand against the proposal to demolish and rebuild the Allianz Sydney Football Stadium in Moore Park, and request that the government withdraw funding from the project immediately.

Thank you for accepting my submission.