

**Submission
No 63**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Mr Paul Francis

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Whilst I am aware that the City of Sydney, representing the people of Sydney, has acted ethically in openly opposing the proposed spending of BILLIONS of dollars on the unnecessary and unwanted super stadia proposals of the Liberal Party Government in NSW, I wish to add my personal objection to those proposals too.

To be sure, there are many concerns to focus on but some of the most important issues are:

- **The choice of location:** Why is Government policy focused on creating major sports and entertainment facilities on the edge of a congested city & eastern suburbs with inadequate public transport, when the larger population and demand for such facilities is in Western Sydney?
- **Misleading proposal:** This rebuild is not just about sports – it's about creating a multi-complex entertainment precinct. Again, why is this not located in the centre of population in Western Sydney, where there is a much greater demand and significantly fewer facilities?
- **Rushed planning process:** Infrastructure NSW has given a timeframe of 6 months to assess the project. This is an unusually fast determination for a project of this size and complexity. The Government appears to be fast tracking an approval so demolition of the current stadium can occur before the next election.

In addition, the legality of the proposals especially as:

- The Government's **failure to engage in any meaningful community consultation**
- The Government's unwillingness to release the strategic business case to justify the proposal
- A **benefit-cost ratio of less than one** – meaning the project will cost far more than its benefits
- **Disruption to the surrounding residential (conservation) areas and parklands** from demolition, construction and operations, which will not only include sporting events but large music concerts.
- **Ongoing loss of trees** to facilitate an expanded footprint of the new stadium.
- **Increased traffic congestion** – the combination of the sporting stadia and the widened road to accommodate the Alexandria to Moore Park Connector from St Peters Interchange to Anzac Parade is a recipe for further gridlock.
- **The failure of the Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust to maintain the stadium which has led to the current safety and security problems.**
- Ongoing use of the **Moore Parklands for spectator parking** – all parking should be taken off the grass and be restricted to the new facility, under built-on areas (noting that light rail which will act as a new mode of transport for people coming to the stadium).
- **Need to preserve the former Sydney Showground**, which is now under threat of commercialisation and appropriation for professional sport, for much-needed community/amateur sports use (both indoor and outdoor).

Based on these aberrations of normal process and possible collusion with big business for vested and corrupt interests, I trust that the Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry will come to the conclusion that the stadia development proposals processes have not been legal and that the proposals are flawed and corrupt as well as totally unnecessary.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my objections.

Yours sincerely

Paul Francis