

**Submission
No 88**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Dr Nicola Heywood

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PUBLIC SUBMISSION RE PROPOSAL TO DEMOLISH SYDNEY STADIUM

I oppose the demolition of Sydney Stadium at Moore Park for the following reasons:

Firstly, it should be noted that there has been a failure of the Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust to maintain the existing stadium, which has led to the current safety and security problems.

With its current plan, the Government has failed to engage in any meaningful community consultation. The Government has been unwilling to release the strategic business case to justify the proposal. To my understanding, the proposal has a benefit-cost ratio of less than one – meaning the project will cost far more than it benefits the community. In other words – it is a waste of taxpayers money.

There will be sustained disruption to the surrounding residential (conservation) areas and parklands during demolition, construction and operations, which will not only include sporting events but large music concerts.

Furthermore, the project will cause an ongoing loss of trees to facilitate the expanded footprint of the new stadium. We have already lost too many trees in this region (esp Alison Rd) due to poor planning and despite strong community objection.

There will be 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.

I would also draw attention to the 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).

Thank you for considering my submission.

Dr Nicola Heywood