

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 22 May 2018

Partially
Confidential

Submission
No 94

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 22 May 2018

Partially
Confidential

Dear C'tee re Allianz Stadium proposal

I strongly object to the demolition and rebuild of the Allianz Stadium and the rushed manner in which this govt is trying to push this through parliament. I also object to the politically fabricated culture wars of East v Western subs or sport vs the arts as an argument. Basically no facility for sport or art is worth \$730 million that is going to be patronised by a few at the expense of many - our Surry Hills/Redfern community.

Already the light rail is a fiasco with cost blowouts . We get no benefit. For example as I understand there is no stop in Surry Hills near Bourke st only one close to the station that we could easily walk to. So sports fan get all the benefits on a Saturday when the stadium is 40% full except for about 5 days.

I absolutely think it is outrageous that any govt no matter what party can be rushing to do this upgrade when we have a homeless and other housing crisis. In Redfern where I live there are so many people young and old, many with mental health problems, sleeping rough and it's getting colder. I live near the housing commission and it is a run down site that could well do with an upgrade for toilets, security, sprinklers etc like the stadium.

I have lived in Surry Hills/ Redfern area since 1985 when the stadium was first built. Great a facility that builds on other sporting facilities (golf ,tennis etc) in the area. No problem but to pull down a Phillip Cox building sounds that there has been a dull, unimaginative search for upgrade solutions. I do not believe that it can cost this much for compliance.

I went to a community consultation at the Stadium a few weeks ago -there were about 20 locals there. It was a cynical box ticking exercise. Once I saw the plans I was ropable - the traffic for one! Then construction congestion was another. Here are some other points -

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.

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 it 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).

As I said this is not about art versus sport or East vs West, it is about spending a ridiculous amount of money on something where the numbers do not add up. If the Stadium Trust want it so much then get private sponsorship to do upgrade. They must take some responsibility for allowing this site to rundown.

The homeless and the hungry deserve our support .This is what governments do. Not do the bidding of large corporations. As a community we are tired of fighting for so many things like a high school on the corner of Cleveland and Chalmers which is now happening. It should not have been that hard. Common sense was all that was needed not politics. We hope the government will listen to the common sense issues in this case with the stadium. We do not support a stadium upgrade of this cost or this magnitude particularly when it seems to be done with such political haste.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.