

**Submission
No 298**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Miss Louise OBrien

Date Received: 22 May 2018

I am writing to oppose the destruction of Philip Cox's award-winning stadium.

There are many concerns;

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.

You can also include the following issues:

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).

You'll need to make your submission before Friday 25th of May – and I strongly encourage you to use this opportunity to let the Government know what you think of this shameful proposal, and their failure to adequately consult the community.

I request you please reconsider the demolition and do small upgrade allowing Cox architects the chance to modernise it and be more sustainable with public funds.

Kind Regards

Louise OBrien