

**Submission
No 104**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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Submission to NSW Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry re: Allianz Stadium.

Spending \$700 million on a demolition – rebuild of Allianz stadium is a total waste of public monies.

Why? For the following reasons.

1. The project is an idea. There are no plans, just a drawing, no architect chosen, no business plan, no sound reason for the venture to happen. It is based on the whim that a new stadium will mean Sydney secures grand final football events annually. Yet currently the stadium is never full, evidenced by the fact that the project allows for NO EXTRA SEATS. That in itself says the proponents know it will be an expensive white elephant. This project is totally unnecessary since it fails to meet the needs of the people of Sydney, catering solely to an elite & minority section of people. Very few from the majority population west of Sydney's centre visit the venue. And with the renovation of the Olympic stadium at Homebush, there will be yet another reason for not travelling to Allianz Stadium. I object to this appalling waste of public monies that would be better spent on providing for or upgrading sporting centres further west where the majority of people live. The larger population & demand for facilities is in Sydney's west. Of course this does not mention schools, or hospitals or transport either – all urgently needing funding, & where this money would be better spent.
2. The increased traffic congestion from St Peters through the Alexandria to Moore Park connector (if this project were to proceed) is a disaster waiting to happen. Traffic is already a nightmare around the area. Although the project speaks of encouraging use of public transport, the issue has never been resolved to date, hence the use of parking on a park, already happening. No plans to alter that have been presented. Is this to hide the unpalatable?
3. This project will not give back to the people that area of Moore Park currently used as a parking lot for stadium events. Drawings revealed to the public confirm there are NO plans for parking at the rebuilt stadium. Yet every other new building in the city HAS to provide parking for its use. There is no explanation for this in the available project information, & leads to the conclusion that the

unspoken plan is to build a parking lot on Moore Park, a totally unacceptable plan. In 1866 Henry Parkes declared Moore Park as public parkland, & I take that to mean a PARK for the use of the general public. Yet it has become a CAR park for the benefit of a small minority of the public who attend sporting fixtures primarily, & that at the time when the majority of the public are able to use the park on the weekends. That was not its intended purpose, nor should it continue. Take the land away from Sydney Cricket Ground Trust / Moore Park Trust & give it back to the people of this state, as it was intended, without using it as a parking lot. All parking should be removed from the Parklands without any further ado.

4. This Government has failed to engage in any community consultation except for that which has been forced on it by public outcry, & even the HR exercise of the community invitation to view the proposal of the first week in May was questionable & at great expense using consultants not public servants. Very little effort by the Government has occurred to consult the population about the project & certainly nothing before they took the decision to go ahead with the project.

5. This Government has failed to provide a benefit-cost ratio to support its case – that provided (benefit-cost of 1) proves the project will cost more than it benefits anyone! How will the project benefit the people of NSW? And where is the business plan? Why has that not been released? When will it be available for discussion?

6. This rebuild is not about sport. If it were, then the site would be where the majority population is located. Rather the project is about a multi-complex entertainment facility, without any demand for it, except by its proponents. There is no need for the project in this location.

The community does not support this proposal and people are appalled by the Government's misplaced priorities, at the shocking waste of public funding and the secrecy surrounding the process.