

**Submission
No 106**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Ms Christine Kirkwood

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I am opposed to the destruction of Philip Cox's award-winning stadium at Moore Park. There are many concerns in regards to the NSW government's plans to re-develop the stadium, 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.

The Government has failed to engage in any meaningful community consultation.

The Government's unwillingness to release the strategic business case to justify the proposal is unacceptable.

The project has a benefit-cost ratio of less than one – meaning the project will cost far more than it benefits.

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

There will be ongoing loss of trees to facilitate an expanded footprint of the new stadium.

We will see increased traffic congestion – the combination of the sporting stadium 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 is well known and could have been avoided.

There are issues around 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).

sWe need to preserve the former Sydney Showground, which is now under threat of commercialisation and appropriation for professional sport, for much-needed community sports use (both indoor and outdoor).