

**Submission
No 120**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Miss Margot Hilton

Date Received: 22 May 2018

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To the NSW Upper House Enquiry into Sports Stadia

Dear Enquiry,

I object to the Government's choice to focus 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.

The proposal is misleading in that it is not just about sport – it's about creating a multi-complex entertainment precinct. Again, why is this not to be located in the centre of the population in Western Sydney, where there is much greater demand and significantly fewer existing facilities?

The planning process is being rushed: 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.

I also consider that the Government has failed to engage in any meaningful community consultation and has been unwilling to release the strategic business case to justify the proposal when it appears that there is a benefit-cost ratio of less than one. In other words that the project will cost far more than it benefits.

The surrounding residential (conservation) areas and parklands will be disrupted by demolition, construction and operations, which will not only include sporting events but also large music concerts.

There will also be the continuing loss of trees to facilitate the expanded footprint of the new stadium and 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 must also be fully taken into account.

I also object to the 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, needs to be preserved for much-needed (both indoor and outdoor) community/amateur sports use.

Yours sincerely
Margot Hilton
22.5.2018