

**Submission
No 125**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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As a sports enthusiast (I attend Sydney Swans and Sydney FC gamers at Allianz Stadium and the SCG respectively) and as a local resident of Surry Hills, I am totally against the demolition and reconstruction of the Allianz Stadium. From what I have read and researched, this is a total waste of taxpayers money when in reality all the stadium needs is an upgrade of toilets, wheelchair access, sprinklers, seating and security upgrade. This is money that could be much better off being spent on providing shelter and homes for homeless people or improvements in school infrastructure. Another new public secondary school for the eastern suburbs is also needed and this money would be better spent on that.

The communities surrounding this precinct get no benefit but get continued disruption, the cost and traffic congestion. The light rail has already caused severe disruption and continues to do so. Plus it seems that more trees will be lost.

2 further points concern me

1. 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?
2. 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.

I strongly believe that this decision will be a game changer for how the people of NSW view the governments decisions and whether the government are listening to the will of the ordinary voters of NSW or the SCG trust and its rich donors. The political fallout from going ahead with this disastrous decision could be (and I expect, will be) equally disastrous for both the people of NSW and the re-election chances of the current liberal government.

Thanks for your attention