

**Submission
No 147**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Mr Ross Ogden

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I'm writing to express my objection to the NSW Government decision to demolish the Sydney Football Stadium (SFS, currently branded Allianz Stadium). I also have ongoing concern at the deliberate, strategic nature of the process that lessened availability of project details and costings to make these decisions. The NSW Government has largely paid only lip service to public outcry on this project (and has done so continual in the last decade regarding the Moore Park area), and by and large, is fairly criticised as being "too closely aligned" to the wishes of high-flyers, powerful people within, or supporting, the SCG Trust.

Points of consideration:

1. If the Sydney Football Stadium is structurally unsound, why has there been no inquiry? The SFS is perhaps half-way through its short period of use. Builders, Designers and/or Certifiers should be held to account if this Venue is so dangerous a structure. The comment of "dangerous structurally" is verbal and heresay and to date there has been no independent appraisal in relation to the unsound nature of Allianz Stadium. Where is such a finding to be found, other than "cheap" by the NSW Government and others?
2. How can it be of benefit to the majority of people in this City and State, if sporting, entertainment and major event infrastructure remains concentrated away from the geographic centre of the city? The Sports Minister's own constituents travel the furthest, if looking at Sydney. (see Supp File 1). At Moore Park and approaches, Traffic congestion will increase, use of parklands for car parking at Moore Park will continue. Why has this not been recognised in any of the processes to date and had an effect on this decision to demolish the SFS?
3. A further reason for the demolition has been "not allow NSW to fall behind the other states on sporting infrastructure and the associated jobs and economic boost they provide". Why wouldn't these venues stand as is and new Stadia be built where the population need it (as indicated above), which certainly is not inner city/ eastern suburbs? Who doesn't realise the dynamic shift of fans to attend AFL or Soccer rather than NRL over the past decade? Isn't this decision regarding SFS catering solely to the pundits, the NRL & SCG Trust, who are powerful but in the minority?
4. As above, the SCG Trust's has not maintained nor looked after the grounds nor surrounding parklands in Moore Park East, shouldn't a consideration in the conclusions of the committee be whether the SCG Trust continue to be trusted with responsibility for the stadium and Moore Park? Why not let Centennial Parklands and Moore Park Trust look after it.
5. It is noted that recent projects in this vicinity of Moore Park, such as the Tibby Pedestrian Bridge linking Moore Park West/ East across Anzac Pde, are positioned in a strange location. Case in point, why was a pedestrian bridge, certified to carry vehicles, constructed in the middle of Moore Park, when the vast majority of Pedestrians walking from Central station head up and down Fitzroy Street/ Anzac Pde intersections? The only reason this bridge could not be constructed at this intersection, was due to its mass, designed as it was for vehicles. The NSW Government was asked to disclose documentation and costings for that project and have failed to do so.
- I mean truly, this lot must think we're all mugs. The process has not been transparent, the SFS is perfectly fine and the people who need it are located 20-30 kms West. WTF do you think you're all doing.
6. "Government that has done its homework and listened to the public" is what the Premier's office wrote to me this year. But I say, remember that it is currently stated by many that "the homework" is being completed at the request of the NRL & SCG Trust, and "the listening to the public" isn't resulting in what the public expect.

It's an age of inherent transparency, I believe past and current NSW Governments have not, are not providing transparency.

Imagine instead the benefit of concentrating on Public Housing (revamping existing and construction of new)? Or how about the very real benefit of completing transport infrastructure to re-known Sydney icons like an underground station at Bondi Beach (a possibility that was given up in the 1990s)?

Lots of luck, hope you find the common sense to knock this thing on the head.