

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 23 May 2018

Partially
Confidential

23 May 2017

To whom It May Concern

Re: *NSW Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry into the Government's closed-door decision to spend billions of dollars on stadiums*

It is with great dismay that I consider the possibility that the demolition and rebuild of 2 perfectly good stadiums is something the NSW government is still considering in light of the massive public outcry. While both stadiums could use some work, tax payers are decidedly NOT in favour of tearing them down. Olympic stadium is not 20 years old. There is no need to do anything.

Moore Park's stadium is an award-winning architect's design. It is tired and needs refurbishing but that's it. Any safety and security issues can be corrected. We do not need to build it bigger. Crowds are not coming here and will NOT come here when (and if) the over budget light rail is ever completed. The demand for stadiums and entertainment is in Western Sydney. Instead of moving the Powerhouse, why not build a new museum or theatre or art gallery.

The proposal for Moore Park development is misleading. 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? We do not need or want this in the eastern suburbs. We do not need more traffic.

Apparently, Infrastructure NSW has given a timeframe of 6 months to assess the project. This is an unusually fast (and inadequate) 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. NOT OK.

Meaningful community consultation has NOT happened. This is simply NOT OK.

Petitions with more than 100,00 signatures have been submitted reflecting the public's lack of support over this issue and our concerns.

I understand there is a benefit-cost ratio of less than one – meaning the project will cost far more than it benefits.

Any new stadium or complex will cause massive disruption to the surrounding residential (conservation) areas and parklands from demolition, construction and operations. It would mean even more loss of trees. Haven't you learned anything from the protests after destroying the trees along Anzac Parade and Darley road?

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

Sydney is being overrun by poor planning and disregard for communities needs. Enough is enough. Preserving beautiful parkland, classic showgrounds and an award winning stadium are what's important. How about using tax payer dollars to make this area last? We do not need or want something new every 5 seconds.

Thank you.