

Submission
No 309

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 23 May 2018

Partially
Confidential

To Whom It May Concern,

I am opposed to the Government's proposal to demolish and rebuild the stadium based on the following arguments:

- The choice of location: why is the Government creating a major sports and entertainment facility 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 six 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.

In addition I have concerns about:

- The Government's failure to engage in any meaningful community consultation
- The Government's unwillingness to release the strategic business case to justify the proposal
- A benefit-cost ratio of less than one – meaning the project will cost far more than it benefits
- Disruption to the surrounding residential (conservation) areas and parklands from demolition, construction and operations, which will not only include sporting events but large music concerts.
- Ongoing loss of trees to facilitate an expanded footprint of the new stadium.
- 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.
- 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, for much-needed community groups

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,