

**Submission
No 164**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Ms Renee Moore

Date Received: 23 May 2018

To the Committee:

Re: Inquiry into the Sydney stadiums strategy

I am a resident of North Parramatta.

I am writing to convey my concerns and discontent about the processes leading up to the demolition of the Parramatta Stadium and War Memorial Pool by Western Sydney Stadium Development.

There was zero community consultation before the Environmental Impact Statement was made public. Rather than consult with those of us most affected by the building of a new Stadium and the loss of our swimming pool, the decision was based on NRL and soccer fans who were canvassed about their opinions.

Furthermore, the community was ignored by the NSW government, the unelected lord mayor and our local MP. I believe that alternative options were not considered including a master plan to allow the pool and stadium to coexist.

The main impact locally is first and foremost the loss of our pool with no imminent plans for a replacement pool. Due to the escalating heat and duration of our summers, the impact of cumulative heat in the Western suburbs due to demographic and environmental factors, this past summer has been intolerable. The alternative option proffered by the government and local council is to swim in the river. The safe area allocated is miniscule and there is inadequate parking in the area which is a popular picnic spot. The loss of our pool has also prohibited swimming classes for local children.

A proposed aquatic centre, for which full funding is not in place will possibly be completed by mid-2020, resulting in further suffering for the local community over a protracted period of time. The lack of foresight and consideration for the community by seemingly rushed decisions is appalling. Quite possibly local constituents will end up paying higher rates and taxes to subsidise a pool and facility that we didn't want. Other environmental impacts include the erosion of beautiful Parramatta Park if the NSW government's plans go ahead to commercialise up to a quarter of the Park by incorporating a gym and wellness centre into their plans. Has the government actually surveyed how many gyms are in Parramatta? The introduction of a new gym facility will be a lose, lose, lose situation for the livelihood of current gyms in the area and the loss of our irreplaceable Parklands will culminate in a loss for the community and greater Sydney and future generations.

Finally, parking has always been a problem in Parramatta. There is an assumption by the NSW government that NRL and soccer fans will not drive to matches but rather utilise public transport. When will government ever learn that cars are the preferred option for transport in urban NSW and unless public transport is affordable and reliable this will never change. My experience living in fairly close proximity to the Stadium is that the influx of cars into the area when a match is on results in locals being held up in traffic delays when trying to get home and often access to driveways is impeded when people park illegally.

Renee Moore