

**Submission
No 166**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Mr Graeme Doherty

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To whomsoever it may concern,

as a resident of Parramatta for twenty years, I wish to express my upset at the loss of the Parramatta War Memorial swimming pool to make way for an even bigger stadium. I have been led to understand that no nearby replacement is planned.

Having lived within easy access of both pool and stadium for all these years, I have rarely seen the old stadium more than occasionally full. It is hard to imagine a financial or socially beneficial reason for such expenditure. One can, however, imagine a number of less honourable reasons. Should the oversized new stadium be more frequently or fully used though, the impact on the surrounding living conditions will be hugely detrimental. The pool, on the other hand was a relatively attractive feature and of great benefit to the health and wellbeing of, not only those of us who live nearby, but to the surrounding schools, clubs and the population in general. Admittedly, the more recent modifications left it a less family friendly place than it had been however it was still beneficial. During the warmer months it offered an important respite from the heat.

The least dishonourable motive one can imagine stem from destructive policies that a responsible governance would stand against, not for, policies encouraging overpopulation and forcing human beings into lives reminiscent of termite colonies. The impression, however, is of a governance interested less in the wellbeing of those whose collective wellbeing it was set up to benefit and more in the potential, self-interested gains available from replacing them with a more lucrative population. One might hope the motive does not include the expectation of an appreciation of a certain access to a regulatory flexibility not available to one less wealthy or desirable to one more socially responsible.

I recall no consideration being given to those of us most affected, either relating to the removal of the public facility of the pool or the unnecessary demolition and oversizing of the stadium facility. I have been aware of some other, so called, "consultations", made at times and places not available to a working individual, and hope that none such took the place of genuine consultation in this case.

The futility of this message is not lost on me.

Sincerely,
Graeme Doherty