

**Submission
No 182**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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I object to the proposed demolition and re-building of the Moore Park stadium on the following grounds;

A line has to be drawn sometime on stopping built encroachments on Moore Park. This line should be drawn now. Moore Park has been encroached upon by

- The Eastern Distributor Motorway and widening of South Dowling Street,

The Tibby Cotter Walkway

The Eastern Suburbs Light Rail

An expensive ceremonial "gateway" south of Lang Road The Korean Memorial,

The plans for the re-built stadium make it clear that the new stadium will encroach on the area around Driver Avenue, on the eastern edge of Moore Park.

RMS also has plans to further encroach on the southern and western edges of Moore Park with its roads expansion plans associated with the WestConnex motorway interchange.

The State Government has stolen - there is no other word for it - a large swathe of Parramatta Park for a football stadium. It appears likely to do likewise to the Domain, for a commercialised Art Gallery of NSW. It has announced plans to privatise much of Heffron Park in Matraville, again for vested football interests.

THIS ALIENATION OF PUBLIC PARKLANDS SHOULD STOP, NOW.

There are numerous statements from experts that the number of seats proposed for the re-built stadium is excessive; that its footprint is excessive. This surely indicates that there is no need for any new stadium to encroach on Moore Park. For example, Arthur Stanley, media manager for VenusLive, which operates ANZ Stadium, has expressed fears that the excessive number of seats planned for Moore Park stadium will "cannibalise" patrons from his ANZ Stadium (Sydney Morning Herald, 24.4.18).

Note the results of a Sydney Morning Herald poll reported on 23.12.17. In answer to the question "Does Sydney need new stadiums at Olympic Park and Moore Park? –

78% said "NO"

13% said "Don't know", and

8% said "Yes".

It appears the government may be massaging the truth in order to convince the public of the worthiness of its stadium plans. The Sydney Morning Herald of 7.4.18 records that the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust chairman, Tony Shepherd, had expressed the view that "the Sydney Football Stadium" (Moore Park) "is not decayed". His statement was apparently over-ridden by the Sports Minister Stuart Ayres.

Finally, The Moore Park stadium project has a benefit/cost ratio of less than 1, so it is destined to lose money - taxpayers' money - my money