

**Submission
No 198**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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I totally oppose the rebuilding of this stadium for the simple fact is that the State Government is catering for the 'whims' of The Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust. If this larger complex is complete, the Trust has stated that it can then hold an extra 20 large events per year!

Unfortunately, the Trust refuses to acknowledge the chaos and gridlock that local residents are currently subjected to when a major event is held. To increase activity means more frustration. It's totally unfair, as many residents have lived in the vicinity for many years, long before this area was turned into an entertainment venue, and, as we now have an independent politician representing the seat of Sydney in the State Government, we feel we do not have the right of opinion from this current State Government. I don't consider this situation as good Government!

No other suburb in this State is subjected to the frustrations and inconvenience that the residents of Paddington, Woollahra, Centennial Park and Surry Hills have to endure every time there is an event held. The suburbs directly affected by this expanded entertainment schedule happen to be amongst the oldest suburbs in Sydney! Some terrace homes with a front door less than a metre from the foot path! Narrow streets, narrow footpaths! It's not a sensible position to place a large entertainment complex! These events not only create a serious lack of resident parking, (more so on the WMC side as the parking rangers seem to be non-existent during events) but are subjected to other serious people issues like drunkenness, foul language, crowd noise, and disgusting behaviour of adults urinating in laneways. The amount of rubbish left behind in the streets is just another issue that seems to be ignored. The crowds behaviour often borders on barbaric!

The light rail (when completed) will assist, but will only serve patrons who want to return to Central station.

Obviously, The Sydney Cricket & Sports Trust have little concern of our local issues, being more focused on enlarging their entertainment venue to maximise their stadium whilst they have the opportunity of a 'like minded' Minister for Sports supporting their claims.

If the Minister was fair, he would be supporting the decision to build a new entertainment, sporting complex closer to his own seat of Penrith which is serviced by rail, and freeways, and aiming more to the geographical centre of this city. The Trust could move to the new complex and control their entertainment schedule from there. Why should not the Trust consider this option, instead of being single minded with determination to stay at their present location, increase the number of events per year, and create further havoc to the residents of the surrounding suburbs? This is the sensible decision, but, again, when vested interests are involved, common sense often vanishes.

I totally oppose any permanent closure of Driver Avenue. I accept on sports events it should be closed, but, not on a permanent basis, as the Trust wants! Why? Please don't mention security! Driver Ave is an important access for local drivers to avoid the constant flow of through traffic along Anzac Parade. It's used daily by many, and I believe it's entirely unprincipled to again affect the local population, solely for the Trust's desires. I can see future stalls being erected along Driver Ave selling their precious memorabilia to their devout followers.

Dennis HALLORAN