

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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I'm writing to have my say on the Moore Park knockdown-rebuild stadium proposal.

I am a resident of nearby Paddington but I'm also of course a resident of Sydney and NSW. I strongly oppose this proposal to demolish the current stadium and am appalled by the misplaced priorities, the shocking waste of public funding and the secrecy surrounding the process.

These are my concerns:

- Why is the Government creating a major sports and entertainment facility on the edge of a congested city and the eastern suburbs with inadequate public transport, when the larger population and demand for such facilities is in western Sydney?
- Why is this not located in the centre of population in western Sydney, where there is a much greater demand and significantly fewer facilities?
- Why is the planning process so rushed? Nearby residents certainly haven't been fully consulted on the many implications for our area. Infrastructure NSW has given a timeframe of six months to assess this project, 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. This is outrageous.
- I attended the 'consultation' at the stadium two weeks ago. The closer you get to this proposal, the more outrageous it is. Just from the design point of view, we are going to be lumbered with a rectangular lump of a building which will be higher than the highest point of the current stadium. But of course the current stadium is a light airy design, not a monolith. Paddington residents have not been fully informed that a monster building is going to arise on the southern border, visible from every street and house on the south side, as well as from Oxford St this new stadium will face on to a beautiful heritage area and completely dominate the skyline.
- The plans, such as they are, show the intention of opening up the precinct to Paddington. Why? Did anyone ask the people of Paddington if they want this? Removing the fence along Moore Park Rd will encourage crowds to exit onto that road and into Paddington, having no border with the stadium any more.
- There will be construction work for years all happening from Moore Park Rd – I was told there will be an access point from that road for trucks etc. Where's all the demolition dust going?
- The Government has completely failed to engage in any meaningful consultation, especially with nearby communities.
- Why has the Government been unwillingness to release the strategic business case to justify the proposal?
- Why does the plan for the new stadium show an increased footprint? Why do yet more trees need to be lost?
- It's very clear that the building of a new stadium would just be part of ever-growing plans to develop this area. There are endless roads, bridges and buildings being crammed into what is supposed to be just public parkland. For decades I have been using Moore Park for recreation but it is now overshadowed by monolithic sports offices, a bridge to nowhere, loss of beautiful trees and the threat of WestConnex coming to the area, all contributing to increased traffic flow. When will the NSW Government realise that nothing should be built that relies on driving.

I reiterate, this is an outrageous proposal which is a waste of public money and I completely oppose it