

**Submission
No 208**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Organisation: Football Federation Australia

Date Received: 24 May 2018



24 May 2018

Hon Robert Brown, MLC
Committee Chair
NSW Public Works Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Brown

Inquiry into the Sydney stadiums strategy

I write in connection with the NSW Public Works Committee inquiry into the government's Sydney stadiums strategy, to provide information on Football Federation Australia (FFA)'s position and engagement with the government on this matter.

FFA represents the whole of the game in Australia and NSW, with responsibility for all national teams including the senior men's team the Caltex Socceroos, the senior women's team the Westfield Matildas and a number of age-group national teams.

Football has been a significant provider of content for Sydney stadiums, and FFA has been highly supportive of the government's plans to redevelop the three main stadia used by our sport, namely ANZ Stadium, Allianz Stadium and Parramatta (Western Sydney) Stadium.

The availability of world-class rectangular stadiums is essential if Australia is to successfully host international matches and tournaments in Sydney, bringing overseas and interstate visitors to NSW.

FFA is bidding to host the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia in 2023, and our original support was for the re-development of ANZ Stadium into an 80,000 seat rectangular stadium.

Despite the March announcement that the revised plans will result in a reduced 70,000 capacity rectangular stadium, FFA is still in favour of this project, especially with delivery now to be two years earlier than originally expected.

FFA seeks to understand more about the possible design options and works for this redevelopment, within the suggested funding envelope, in light of an in-principle commitment to extend its agreement with Destination NSW for a further 10 years on the basis of a totally rebuilt ANZ Stadium.

The knock-down and re-build of Allianz Stadium into a new 40,000 to 45,000 capacity facility is also good news for football in Australia, and will provide a world-class venue for Hyundai A-League/Westfield W-League club Sydney FC.

FFA is however keen to see that the flexibility to present the stadium in reduced-capacity 'Championship' or 'Club' modes, dependent on anticipated crowd numbers, and as outlined in a presentation of the initial stadium plans, will still be available.

In the meantime, FFA keenly anticipates the completion of Western Sydney Stadium. This will be a focal point for the community and offer a welcome return to Parramatta for Western Sydney Wanderers FC, and potentially provide a superb football venue for a number of our national teams.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gallop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

David Gallop AM
Chief Executive Officer