

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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I do not support the proposal by the NSW Government to demolish Philip Cox's award-winning Allianz stadium at Moore Park and build a new stadium. I am appalled by their misplaced priorities and the shocking waste of public funding as well as the secrecy surrounding the whole process.

Why is the Government bent on creating a major sports and entertainment facility in an already congested area when the demand for such facilities is in Western Sydney?

This rebuild is not just about sports – it's about creating a multi-complex entertainment precinct on the edge of the CBD. Such a facility should not be located in the congested heart Sydney when there is a much greater demand and significantly fewer facilities in Western Sydney?

Infrastructure NSW has allocated a timeframe of 6 months to assess the project. This is an unusually fast determination for a project of this size and complexity. The NSW Government seems to be fast tracking an approval so demolition of the current stadium can occur before the next election.

The NSW Government has failed to engage in any meaningful community consultation. They are also unwilling to release the strategic business case to justify the proposal. With a benefit-cost ratio of less than one, it is clear that the project will cost far more than it benefits the public on NSW.

As a local resident, I am particularly concerned about the level of disruption to the surrounding residential (conservation) areas and parklands from the demolition and construction works as well as the ongoing operations of the stadium, which will not only include sporting events but large music concerts. We have already put up with the disruption associated with the refurbishment of the Cricket Ground and construction of numerous new buildings within the EQ and the carpark of the Allianz Stadium, as well as Fox Studios, which has been ongoing for years.

This proposal will result in further loss of mature trees to facilitate the expanded footprint of the new stadium. It will also massively increase traffic congestion, particularly when sporting and entertainment traffic is overlaid on additional traffic that will result from road widening to accommodate the Alexandria to Moore Park Connector from St Peters Interchange to Anzac Parade.

The funds being allocated to this proposal would be much better spent on community sporting facilities or adequately staffing NSW's National Parks which would service far greater numbers of the public, than the declining crowds at sporting events.