

**Submission
No 232**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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I oppose this proposal to rebuild the Sydney Football Stadium. My community is appalled by the misplaced priorities, the shocking waste of public funding and the secrecy surrounding the process.

My concerns are;

Waste of public funds: there are over 2200 public schools in NSW with an urgent need to be upgraded. This allocation of public funds would be far better served by investing in providing quality facilities for our students in public schools. This project has a benefit-cost ratio of less than one. The project will cost far more than it benefits. Whereas, it is proven that investing in schools returns. Cost-benefit of between four to seven dollars for every dollar spent.

Misleading proposal: this rebuild is not just about sports – it's about creating a multi-complex entertainment precinct for the elite.

Rushed planning process: Infrastructure NSW has given a timeframe of six months to assess the project. This is an unusually fast determination for a project of this size and complexity. The Government is giving the impression of fast tracking an approval so demolition of the current stadium can occur before the next election.

The Government's failure to engage in meaningful community consultation and it's unwillingness to release the strategic business case to justify this proposal. I attended infrastructure NSW's 'community consultation' which was a public relations exercise of the rubber-stamping of its plans.

Disruption to the surrounding residential (conservation) areas and parklands from demolition, construction and operations, which will not only include sporting events but large music concerts.

Ongoing loss of trees to facilitate a new footprint of the new stadium.
Increased traffic congestion – the combination of the sporting stadia and the widened road to accommodate the Alexandria to Moore Park Connector from St Peters Interchange to Anzac Parade is a recipe for further gridlock.

The failure of the Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust to maintain the stadium which has led to the current safety and security problems. Why are these members not held accountable?

Need to preserve the former Sydney Showground for much-needed community/amateur sports use (both indoor and outdoor). It is now under threat of privatisation for use as corporate headquarters for the major sporting codes. Local public schools now have less access to local sporting and cultural facilities due to a reduction of the number of said facilities and increasing costs!

For these reasons, I vehemently oppose the proposal to rebuild the SFS.

Sincerely,
Paul Robson