

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 25 May 2018

Partially
Confidential

Submission
No 236

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I wish to make a submission to the NSW Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of Alliance Stadium at Moore Park.

I have been a resident of Paddington for 40 years. In 1991 I was elected to South Sydney Council as an independent councillor. I have seen the suburb of Paddington and surrounding suburbs through many stages of change, development and growth.

The area where Alliance Stadium stands was earmarked for community use. With very little debate, it was passed in Parliament for the Stadium to be built. This decision was not in the best interests of the local community. Considering the number of factories that have moved out of the area (Botany) and a massive number of apartments built in the last 30 years, the development of Green Square, the area would have been better developed for passive recreation.

I was interested to hear that at the community meetings that there were no specific plans for the 'proposed' development at Alliance Stadium on display for residents for comment. Why the meetings were called at all before the plans could be put to the local community is a mystery. In the Saturday – Sydney Morning Herald 19th May 2018, it was clearly stated by government that demolition for the new stadium would be in 2018. How can that be starting construction requires obtaining planning approval for the demolition of the old stadium. It took 10 months to obtain planning approval to demolish the old Parramatta Stadium. No planning approval to demolish, no plans to comment, no studies on impact on the local community, no traffic studies, yet the community meetings took place.

The estimated cost for the new stadium is \$730 million (40,000 seats) yet the stadium at Parramatta has been costed at \$300million (30,000 seats) The amount of money suggests it is not about sports but a multi-complex entertainment centre.

How can the Government justify spending that amount of money and unleashing thousands of patrons on the local streets. When there are big matches, huge crowds descend on the local streets. The streets cannot cope from Paddington to Surry Hills to Central Station the streets are full of 'hyped' up patrons weaving their way to and from the matches and I may add causing destruction on the way. Very common, urination in front gardens, pot plants overturned, litter, vomit. If Government is under the impression that these crowds will be well behaved and in an orderly fashion get off the train at Central and use the light train to the Albert Tibby Cotter Walkway then they possibly misunderstanding human behaviour. One presenter, went as far as to say 'they' were going to change 'human behaviour' another said the crowds would stop at the hotels on the way, another mentioned light rail stop at the "Horden Pavillion".

I consider, the amount of public money proposed to be spent is misappropriated and would be best directed towards SCHOOLS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ROADS

There are areas in NSW desperate for updated infrastructure.