

**Submission
No 248**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Mr Charles Powell

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Ms Gladys Berejiklian
Premier, New South Wales

I write with concern about replacing Allianz Stadium.

Why is your Government policy focused on creating a major sports and entertainment facilities on the edge of a congested city & eastern suburbs with inadequate public transport, when the larger population and demand for such facilities is in Western Sydney?

Your proposal itself is misleading: this rebuild is not just about sports – it's about creating a multi-complex entertainment precinct. Again, 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 are you attempting to 'hustle' the planning process? Infrastructure NSW has been given a timeframe of only 6 months to assess the project. This is an unusually short time 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.

In addition, I find the following completely completely unacceptable:

- Your Government's failure to engage in any meaningful community consultation
- Your Government's unwillingness to release the strategic business case to justify the proposal
- A benefit-cost ratio of less than one – meaning the project will cost far more than it benefits.
- The benefits [such as they are] flow to developers and football clubs-not citizens. In fact, every household in New South Wales is up for A\$1,000 to rebuild a stadium which is never full for any event in the first place.
- 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 an expanded 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 so called 'safety and security problems'.
- Ongoing use of the Moore Parklands for spectator parking.

Please stop this travesty, and spend our increasingly precious taxpayer funds on facilities for Western Sydney and for regional areas of NSW.

Sincerely,

Charles Powell