

**Submission
No 251**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Ms Jennifer Cullen

Date Received: 25 May 2018

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To NSW State Parliament

Subject: ANZ Stadium and plans to rebuild

Individual Submission

from Jennifer Cullen, writer Journalist

24 May 2018

I wish to express my outrage at the State Government's decision to rebuild the 30 year old Philip Coz-designed ANZ stadium at an estimated cost of \$750 million along with many millions more to compensate professional AFL teams for the inconvenience during the rebuild, despite the fact these are money making professional sports bodies.

I am appalled that there was no community consultation before this ludicrous decision was taken, and equally appalled at the backflip that initially under Premier Mike Baird there was to be no rebuild but under the next Premier it became a priority.

Already the stadium and adjacent Cricket Grounds are taking over public land and using Moore Park as an extended car park for their events but the rebuild will encroach further, destroying much green space that we as nearby residents use daily.

Despite the fact the current stadium is almost never full, the Government has nevertheless gone ahead with further expansion for a new stadium giving no regard to already areas such as Paddington under pressure with increasing traffic and limited parking, and yet again will destroy important much loved trees, some more than 100 years old, to implement this latest folly.

I dread the disruption to our lives in adjacent areas during the demolition and rebuild and the resultant problems of parking and even getting into our area once the stadium is up and running. No provision for public transport other than Railway Square some distance away has been made and roads are already choked with cars.

The billion dollars taxpayer will pay for this indulgence by the Government could be used in so many ways including compensation for small business owners along George Street who are struggling to survive due to the light rail construction and endless delays for its completion. For these business owners to be dismissed and offered no compensation by the State Government as "collateral damage" is an outrage.

I will NOT be voting to return this Government which continues to ignore the voice of the people and further destroy what was once meant by a democracy - of the people, for the people, by the people.