

**Submission
No 261**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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We are long term residents of Paddington who would like to strongly oppose the planned building of a new stadium at Moore park to replace the existing Philip Cox award-winning stadium.

There are many sound planning and environmental reasons to reject it. Even the financials don't stack up, we understand, with a cost-benefit ratio indicating that the cost outweighs the economic benefits of this project.

It beggars belief that a large facility like this should be built in an already congested inner city location, surrounded by a residential heritage conservation area. The inevitable significant increase in traffic congestion, loss of trees (yet more trees) due to the expanded facility and the inevitable ongoing high jacking of public parklands at Moore Park for spectator parking are all strong arguments for rejecting this proposed new stadium.

As others have pointed out, it is obvious that this proposal is not just about providing one new sports stadium, it's about creating a multi-complex entertainment facility which connects with the push to commercialise the neighbouring former Sydney Show Ground precinct.

Allowing this to happen rewards a Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust for allowing this facility to deteriorate in the hope (a ploy used by so many property developers) that this will justify a total rebuild. Even so, restoration of the current stadium as against this total rebuild is feasible and by far the less expensive option, while projections of sports usage do not justify a larger sports facility. At the same time, the need for better sports facilities is evident in Western Sydney, with its larger population and unmet demand. One has to conclude that this is a vanity driven, self-interested proposal by Trust members.

We ask our representatives in the NSW Parliament to take a firm stands against this proposal to build a new stadium at Moore Park.

Yours sincerely

Ms Josefa Green & Dr John Millbank