

**Submission  
No 264**

## **INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY**

**Organisation:** Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Working Group

**Date Received:** 25 May 2018

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## **Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Working Group**

Convenor: Will Mrongovius,

Friday 25 May, 2018

To: Public Works Committee  
Legislative Council

Re: Sydney Stadiums Strategy

The local community has grave concerns about the Government's stadiums strategy, particularly in relation to the proposed rebuild of the Sydney Football Stadium and considers that all work should be put on hold until a thorough review of the process has been undertaken. The benefit-cost ratio does not demonstrate a need for a new stadium. The question must be asked as to whether or not this is the right location to be investing so much money? Why has the Government not released the business case?

### **Public Transport**

The rebuild proposal itself, limited as it is to grounds under the purview of the Sydney Cricket Ground and Sports Ground Trust, is not an holistic approach to the precinct and fails to take into account the limitations of existing public transport infrastructure or adequately plan to improve this.

If the stadium rebuild is to proceed then there needs to be:

- i) An effective plan for point to point transport (taxis, rideshare etc) and for active transport (bicycling etc, including improved storage).
- ii) A plan to remove on-grass parking on Moore Park as soon as possible and limit the number of vehicles travelling to the precinct to reduce traffic congestion. The rapidly growing inner-city population relies on this open space for passive recreation and event parking has a disruptive impact on the community. A strategy to increase the amount of green space and trees is required.
- iii) The Government should introduce legislation requiring event organisers to include public transport in ticketing. It should not be left to individual sporting bodies or others to decide whether or not they wish to do this.

### **Attendance Rates**

With research indicating that the reasons why people are likely to attend sporting events are complex and not directly linked to the quality of the stadium, the assertion that a new stadium will attract a greater number of patrons needs to be challenged. Sydney has the population to support increased usage of stadiums yet unless some of the sporting bodies change their membership strategies this will not happen. New stadiums in and of themselves do not encourage patrons to go to games on a regular basis.

### **Sydney Showground (Entertainment Quarter)**

This land was part of a gift given to the people of Sydney in perpetuity. It is now under threat of commercialisation and appropriation for professional sport, when it is much-needed for community/amateur sports use (both indoor and outdoor).

The Government has failed to engage in meaningful consultation with the local community and is rushing the planning process. We do not want a new stadium.

Yours faithfully,

Prue Brown  
Deputy Convenor