

## INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

Chairman  
NSW Upper House Stadiums Inquiry  
Sydney.

May 2018.

I OBJECT TO THE KNOCK-DOWN-AND-REBUILD OF ALLIANCE (MOORE PARK) STADIUM on the following grounds.

The Benefit / Cost ratio being less than one indicates that the project will not be profitable and will likely require further, and ongoing, financial support from taxpayers.

The State Government has deliberately misled the public on at least one occasion, when Minister Ayres manipulated a statement by the Chairman of the Cricket Ground Trust by omitting his view that "the SFS is NOT decayed" (Sydney Morning Herald, 7.4.18, p.3).

The project is not popular with the public. According to a Sydney Morning Herald report of 24.5.18 (page 39, Sport) even 90% of National Rugby League fans would prefer the state government to refurbish Sydney's suburban grounds rather than the big stadiums.

The intended encroachment on the public's Moore Park, however small, is unacceptable, given the government's recent take-over of a large swath of Parramatta Park for a football stadium, its intended alienation of a hectare of the Sydney Domain for the commercially-oriented Art Gallery of NSW, and the announced take-over of Heffron Park at Matraville, again for vested football interests. All these acts amount to the stealing of lands from the public, for use by vested interests. The growing tendency for Sydney residents to live in apartments rather than detached houses is going to increase the need for public open space. This government is intent on reducing it.

Why is the state government involved in financing football stadiums at all? The football codes are rolling in money, and given the fraud accusations, salary-cap breaches, and other mis-management accusations, are not fit to be handed publicly-funded infrastructure for their own discretionary use.

If the stadium is indeed unsafe and in need of repair, then it is the user or manager who should repair it, as would occur with any other business enterprise.

The government's argument that the expenditure is necessary in order for NSW to remain competitive with other states for "tourism" and other income does not bear scrutiny, because the NSW government has no control over what other states may choose to spend in terms of new stadiums or other tourist-attracting infrastructure.

Evidence from overseas indicates that the benefits from new sporting stadia are illusory, or at least exaggerated. Sports economist Michael Leeds, of Temple University in Philadelphia, says professional sports have very little economic impact. He cites the case that if every professional baseball team in Chicago were to disappear, the economic impact on Chicago would be less than 1 percent. Professor Roger Noll, of Stanford University, says NFL stadiums do not generate significant economic growth, and the incremental tax revenue is not sufficient to cover any significant capital investment by government.

The government should not spend taxpayers dollars on this risky development.