

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

As a result of the Stadium Strategy Parramatta has lost its public swimming pool. This pool was a meeting place for many in the area. It was surrounded by grass where families could have picnics and relax, just as people living near the coast might do at the beach. These outdoor pools had only recently been upgraded at considerable expense to the community and were widely believed to be one of the best outdoor swimming centres in Sydney.

The diving community misses the dive tower just as people miss not being able to swim laps. The destruction of this pool has put incredible pressure on surrounding pools for adult swimmers to find lap space to swim. With two chronically ill people within the household for whom swimming is one of the few possible exercise options this has effected long term health outcomes.

No community consultation was carried out before the Environmental Impact Statement was made public. The report only showed NRL and soccer fan groups were engaged with. The stadium was rarely full and used mainly by private companies who could afford to build a stadium elsewhere.

The community were ignored for over a year when requesting NSW government pause and review a master plan to allow pool and stadium to coexist. These plans were paid for by the community, just as the original pool was paid for by money raised by the community. There was no need to demolish Parramatta Pool.