

**Submission
No 276**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Mr Finbar O'Donoghue

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25 May 2018

Dear Sir,

I have attempted to send this on the official link to the stadium inquiry but access to the link is down. How disappointing or convenient for the government to limit feedback?

I am extremely disappointed with the lack of consultation regarding the decision to destroy the pool in order to pander to a few with links to professional sport at the expense of the community.

Architectural drawings were submitted that showed clearly that the pool could have remained and a new stadium could have been built. This could have been achieved on the existing stadium site without the destruction of the Parramatta War Memorial Pool. The path chosen has inconvenienced the tens of thousands who have been displaced without a replacement pool for years. The suggested alternatives have been inadequate, the heating broken down at Granville pool and MacArthur girls pool still not available yet.

More people used the Parramatta pool in a year than ever attended the Eels or Wanderers games. This is clear bias by anyone involved in making the disastrous decision that has left the residents of Parramatta in the position in which they find themselves today.

Fortunately the body making the disastrous three stadium policy now find themselves in a position in which they will now not be wasting the billions of dollars that had been allocated to this scheme. Public opinion has been sufficient to force a rethink on the two other stadiums not destroyed yet. Money not wasted here can now be used more wisely to fully pay for the new Parramatta pool. The government cynically offered \$30 million of the \$75 million cost of the new pool a day or two before the local council elections last year. The government now has sufficient funds to pay the full amount without expecting the residents of Parramatta to subsidise their foolish policies.

I will have to finish here as this has to be in before midnight. I would like a reply outlining why despite what I have shown you here the process went ahead when it quite clearly was not in the best interests of the people who use the pool. The residents of Parramatta.

Yours truly,

Finbar O'Donoghue