

**Submission
No 278**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

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The Government has mounted a persuasive argument that the people of Western Sydney are entitled to accessible arts programmes hence the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum to Parramatta, the geographic heart of Sydney. To quote the Premier, "This is about making sure arts is accessible to the whole community. The Premier also emphasised that Parramatta is the "geographic heart of Sydney". However the Premier and her Ministers do not apply the same logic to the demolition of the SFS. No longer is there any concern that the "geographic heart of Sydney" is entitled to accessible sporting facilities. Rather this monumental waste of public money, in the construction of an even bigger stadium in the already crowded eastern suburbs, will only exacerbate traffic congestion, as people from the "geographic heart" travel long distances to attend these apparently lucrative major sporting events. There is extreme disquiet in the community about the failure of the Government to use its poles and wires windfall to prioritise providing everyday services for ordinary people, particularly in the area of education and child and family services. Monumental show projects such as the destruction and reconstruction of this existing facility carry the taint of an elitist vanity cause. I strongly oppose this decision.