

**Submission
No 280**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Name: Mr James MacMaster

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Good evening

I would like to reflect briefly on the loss of the Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Pool to the new Parramatta stadium project.

Firstly I find it absolutely unbelievable that there was almost zero constructive consultation with the community members that benefit from such an amazing asset. This process seemed to be driven from the very beginning by football, rugby league and private enterprise.

The Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Pool was situated on public land that one could argue should be out of reach from private hands. Clearly not in this case.

This was a place for the young and old, baby's, children through to the seniors of all nationalities to meet and either learn basic water skills, practice their diving, have a social catch up with friends or to beat yesterday's effort in the year round heated 50m Olympic Pool. It was the home of so many vital local school swimming carnivals, all buried and forgotten under the construction of the new stadium.

What a waste considering the expense of the recently completed upgrades on the pool and surrounding infrastructure. Let's not worry about how much the community lost in that deal as it is insignificant compared to the projected cost of a full replacement for this facility.

There were alternatives put on the table that could see the existing pool complex remain and co-exist with the stadium, no one was listening and that was clearly obvious.

I live in regional New South Wales and love anything to do with sport, swimming included. I travel heavily for work and spend a significant amount of time in the City of Parramatta.

This was a poor decision for the community and the city. I urge you to make sure these types of mistakes cannot be made in the future.

Regards

James MacMaster
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