

**Submission  
No 281**

## **INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY**

**Name:** Ms Katherine Knight

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## SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY INQUIRY

I write on behalf of my household of six – my daughter, son-in-law, their three young children, and myself – all residents of Telopea and members of the Parramatta State and Federal electorates. I have lived at the same address for 50 years.

We were shocked and distressed by the news in mid-2016 that Parramatta Memorial Swimming Pool was to be demolished to make way for an expanded Parramatta Football Stadium. There had been no prior notification and certainly no community consultation of pool users, who number in their thousands throughout the summer months in particular. We were regular patrons of the pool and my older two grandchildren attended swimming lessons there, just as my children had done in previous decades.

By the time community members could rally in protest, it seemed that contracts had been signed and there was no chance to reverse the decision. No alternative arrangements were offered to pool patrons and for our family, like so many others, access to swimming and to lessons has been much more expensive and less convenient since then.

Plans for an alternative aquatic centre indicate facilities are at least five years away and require another large area of Parramatta Park lands, at a time when Parramatta is expanding rapidly and needs all the breathing space and passive recreation space it can retain.

It is not clear in whose interests these decisions were made and we hope the Inquiry can do something to redress the injustices perpetrated.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Katherine Knight

Historian

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