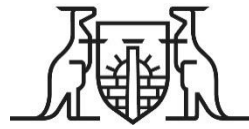


**Submission
No 329**

INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY STADIUMS STRATEGY

Organisation: Australian Institute of Architects

Date Received: 15 June 2018



15 June 2018

The Hon. Robert Brown MLC
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

To the Hon. Robert Brown MLC,

Re: Sydney stadia strategy

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Public Works Committee regarding the Inquiry into the Sydney stadia strategy.

I note that submissions closed on 25 May 2018, however, I would like to put the position of the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) before the Committee during the current period of inquiry.

In November 2017, the AIA issued a media release that questioned the announcement by the NSW Government to demolish the Sydney Football Stadium at Moore Park and Stadium Australia at Sydney Olympic Park to make way for new stadiums with similar spectator capacities.

The media release can be found here: <http://wp.architecture.com.au/news-media/architects-question-plans-demolish-stadiums/>

In this media release, the Institute voiced:

- Recognition that significant upgrades are required to keep both stadia commercially viable
- Concern that major public buildings would have a life span of just 30 and 20 years, respectively, when stadiums should be in service for at least 50 to 100 years
- Concern that demolishing architecture that plays a significant role in the city's cultural fabric and collective memory means a loss for the community and our social heritage
- The view that best practice, environmentally sustainable development acknowledges the embodied energy contained in structures – the materials, the human labour etc – and takes this into account when considering a business case for redevelopment.

The Institute has since reviewed the business case summaries for the Sydney Football Stadium and Stadium Australia produced by Infrastructure NSW and maintains the position articulated in the aforementioned media release, with the addition of the following points:

- The Institute supports the principle of universal accessibility and initiatives to achieve access for all, especially in the case of public buildings.

- The business case for Sydney Football Stadium claims that upgrading the existing structure would cost nearly as much as demolishing and rebuilding with additional capacity and facilities, but it lacks any detail as to what the new design might be and what standards it might achieve.
- The Institute supports, in principle, the amended decision to retain and refurbish the existing Stadium Australia (Sydney Olympic Stadium).
- The costing model for the stadia does not appear to account for environmental impacts, but there are considerable costs in making waste of a structure of this scale and in manufacturing and transporting materials for constructing a new stadium that should be factored into the comparative evaluation of options.
- There is an underlying question of the value and justification of investing such a large quantity of public monies in Eastern Sydney when there are significant development priorities to be realised further west.

If you would like to discuss these matters further, please don't hesitate to contact the Institute.

Sincerely,

Andrew Nimmo
NSW Chapter President
Australian Institute of Architects