

**Submission
No 14**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

Name: Mr George Zivkovic

Date Received: 11 July 2024

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the NSW Upper House inquiry into the proposal to sell and redevelop Rosehill Gardens.

It is important that the Select Committee examining the impact of the proposal on racing in NSW hears directly not only from Save Rosehill but also from members of the Australian Turf Club about concerns that we have.

I have lived in Northmead, some 5.6kms from Rosehill Gardens for over 40 years. I have been a financial member of the ATC for over 20 years, formerly a member of the STC (Sydney Turf Club), and have an active interest in the future of our historic racecourse, both as a horse owner and race-goer.

Racing has been conducted at Rosehill since the 1880's and the popularity of the venue has only increased over time, especially thanks to the flagship race in Sydney's West, the Golden Slipper, the world's richest race for 2YO horses.

As a member of the former STC, I was opposed to the takeover of the club by the Randwick-based AJC. Along with a majority of members, I voted that this proposal be rejected. It is now history that members' wishes were overridden by our directors and the club was disbanded and the ATC created. We feared at the time that this could be just the first step to moving all racing to Randwick (or elsewhere). We now feel that our fears may have been vindicated.

The potential loss of Rosehill Gardens racecourse would be yet another slap in the face for Western Sydney residents. Rosehill Gardens is an entertainment facility, an employer and a recreational space for a large number of regular Western Sydney racegoers. It provides an opportunity for our youth especially to enjoy an elevated social experience within our own backyard, so to speak. I cannot see that another racecourse 'somewhere else in Sydney' could be any possible sort of equivalent substitute.

As one who grew up in Blacktown and who has lived at the same address in Northmead for over 40 years, I have spent the bulk of my teaching career that spanned some 37 years in Western Sydney. I am now retired, but am passionate about this region and particularly its young people.

In Parramatta, we have already suffered because the decentralisation of government agencies to form Sydney's "second city" via nation-building. High-rise development surrounds us and we have come to accept the expansion of duplexes where family homes once stood on green blocks of land. Some would argue that this is the price we pay for "progress"; I would say that Western Sydney has already done enough.

Rosehill Gardens should not be sold-off for development.

Thank you.

George Zivkovic

ATC Member No