

# NORTH PARRAMATTA

## Residents Action Group Inc

24<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Re: - Western Sydney Stadium (Concept & Stage 1 Demolition)

As identified by Department of Planning, Venues NSW and Infrastructure NSW as stakeholders of the proposed Western Sydney Stadium, NPRAG object to the current EIS on exhibition for the Western Sydney Stadium.

The following issues formulate our official objection:

### 1. FAILURE TO CONSULT

The [SEARs Report](#) issued by Department of Planning states under Consultation that ***“During the preparation of the EIS, you must consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, community groups and affected landowners”*** The [Consultation Report \( Appendix D - Consultation Stakeholder and Community Consultation Outcomes Report](#) lodged by Venues NSW reports under Community Consultation 3.3.1 ***“Two Fan Forums were held on 18 January and 9 February 2016. The forums included representatives from the NRL teams – Bulldogs, West Tigers and Parramatta Eels, the Western Sydney Wanderers and from Football Federation Australia”***

Observing communities discontent with a proposal and reporting on it IS NOT CONSULTATION.

Holding community Pop -In's at malls and train stations with artist's impressions of a new stadium AFTER the EIS is submitted IS NOT CONSULTATION.

Therefore, we believe Venues NSW and Infrastructure NSW did not comply with the Department of Planning SEARs report by consulting with community groups during the preparation of the EIS. The EIS is premature and should be pulled from exhibition and meaningful consultation with the wider community be carried out and a new consultation report submitted again with a new EIS submission.

This proposal, will affect a community ratepayer funded facilities future and the change of use of a public parkland. Therefore, this proposal needs careful and considered consultation with the community.



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## **2. FAILURE TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY EIS is FOR DEMOLITION OF POOL**

The EIS did not make clearly identifiable that the EIS is a Development Application for the Demolition of Parramatta War Memorial Pool. It only listed this as a consequence of the proposed site the stadium would prefer to take instead of utilizing the Stadium Trust land. The EIS also falsely reported that the State Government had announced that a new aquatic centre would be built. This is not the case. The Minister for Sports announced a commitment to carry out a feasibility study for possible location of the centre being on Crown Land under management of Parramatta Park Trust. There is no commitment from the NSW Government or Parramatta City Council for the funding for a like for like swimming facility.

## **3. FAILURE TO IDENTIFY CROWN LAND**

The EIS does not correctly identify in its proposal for a 'border re-alignment' or land swap that the land currently leased by Parramatta City Council for Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Centre is land managed under Parramatta Park Trust Act which is Crown Land. There is no mention of the Minister For Lands – Niall Blair being involved in consultation regarding this land changing use.

## **4. NO FEASIBILITY STUDY CARRIED OUT FOR ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS**

Venues NSW and Infrastructure NSW have failed to consider the option of reorienting the proposed stadium on the existing site so that the existence of a much loved and much used community facility is not jeopardized. There are identifiable locations the Parramatta LGA – the most significant being the Rosehill Gardens & Camelia Urban Renewal Precinct. This location is a shorter distance to walk from Parramatta Station, and also has an existing heavy rail line station that stops at Rosehill Gardens. The proposed light rail from Westmead to Olympic Park will run through this precinct. Road traffic including cars and buses would have fast and easy access to M4, James Ruse Drive, Pennant Hills Road and Great Western Highway. Unlike the existing Stadium location on O'Connell Street, Parramatta which is a bottle neck of road traffic, which will only increase with the proposed school to be built in Old Kings School, the 77 apartment development on corner of O'Connell and Victoria Road, and the redevelopment of the Heritage Precinct in Fleet Street North Parramatta.

## **5. COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

It has not been identified what the true cost benefit to spending \$350 million on only increasing a stadium by 8000 seats which equates to \$41,000 a seat expansion. The current stadium is rarely at capacity for rugby league games. Western Sydney Wanderers have clearly identified they would like a much bigger stadium than the one proposed.

A larger stadium could be built at Blacktown International Sports Park with the added bonus that the World Heritage Listed vista from Old Government House would not be compromised. This site is easily accessible by road or rail and would significantly boost this precinct in the Blacktown LGA which is set to expand its population by 300,000 in 20 years.

#### **6. WORLD HERITAGE VISTAS COMPROMISED**

The World Heritage Vistas of Old Government House will be compromised by a development of this size. Relying on a tree line that will eventually end its natural lifecycle will render the listing exposed. If Parramatta truly wants to be a great city and build long term tourist economy, it will need to protect its world heritage listed treasures. Domestic and international tourists do not visit an area to view a football game, they come to learn about its history, its unique past and how that community respects and embraces its past. We cannot see busloads of tourists stopping off from their trip to the Blue Mountains to visit Parramatta for a football stadium.

On behalf of the residents of Parramatta who we represent the process is fatally flawed as it does not comply with a number of significant requirements in law and the documentation was misleading and therefore the DA should be rejected and the process restarted. This EIS is premature, ill planned and an unwise move by the NSW government to go against the wishes of the majority of its constituents.

Kind Regards

Suzette Meade  
**President**