

Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Group (covering parking permit area 15)

Convenor Will Mrongovius, [41 Selwyn St. Paddington](#), mob 0407 418 780

email wrongov@gmail.com

To Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Thursday 7 September 2023

Dear Minister,

**Re: Sydney Football Stadium- Proposed Concert Cap Increase
State Significant DAs- SSD-9249-Mod7 & SSD-9835-Mod 8**

Our Members live in Sydney Council Traffic Area 15- our community is within the "highly impacted area" and is one of key affected communities as shown in the Social Impact assessment report prepare on behalf of Venues NSW.

Our Members are angry and ask that the proposed changes outlined in the above applications be refused.

Why?

1. We do not believe Sydney is losing Concerts when the Stadium at Homebush with a capacity of 80,000 is available all year. This was clearly demonstrated in the recent FIFA Women's World Cup when sold out matches scheduled for the Sydney Football stadium were transferred to Homebush.- and what a success they were.
2. The Sydney Football Stadium is in a residential area- Compare this with Homebush where the Stadium is NOT in a residential area.

Paddington has a population of 12,700, (2021) and a density of 8,500 people per square kilometre.

(By comparison Homebush is 11,776, with a population density of 5,497 persons per square km.)

3. The Cap matters, concentration of concerts in a 6 month period will have significant impact on the area and residents

The current consents for the SFS and SCG been based on 6 concerts per year (with an average of 4 per calendar year over any rolling 5 year period.)

Given that concerts cannot normally be held in the winter due to football code requirements and concern of damage to the playing surface this means a 6 month concert season Sept-March .

We note that Sydney FC has a summer playing season . Concerts have an impact on the playing surface.

So if 20 concerts were held, then together with the Mardi Gras there would be 21 events within a 5 to 6 month period (if Sydney Roosters played two home finals in Sept then you can rule out most of September)

That number of Concerts over the summer period probably equates to 3 to 4 concerts each month with 2 allowed to go on for 10 hours.

Of course we are angry.

4. The credibility of the Applicant (Venues NSW) must be questioned.

Venues NSW is being dishonest when they state that;

(a) The current cap has not been reviewed since 1990.- what absolute nonsense

In the Business Case for the new Stadium dated March 2018 KPMG prepared a detailed report of likely usage of the stadium and it included concerts.

An extract of the Report is shown below- what has changed since then????

The supporting documents to these two applications have ignored the KPMG report- what is required is a comparison of the KPMG report to an estimate of the total number of events should the 21 concert cap be approved.

Where is the comparison?

One of the justifications for spending \$850,000 on a new Stadium was to ensure that Women's sport was given equality in facilities. Any review of event days should include the growth and demand for Women's football fixtures

(b) When it repeatedly makes statements such as:

- The current planning approvals allow the stadium to be operated for sporting events up to 365-days per year, and accordingly the proposed additional frequency of concert events is not considered to result in any significant additional adverse effects on the locality.
- Currently no limit to sporting events- these could be increased
- It is also noted that the existing planning approvals allow the use of the stadium for sporting events up to 365 days/year

Of course the Stadium is available for sporting events every day of the year. But try playing 2 or 3 times a week and see what happens to the playing surface.

SUMMARY

We ask that the applications be refused or modified as follows;

- Reduced number of maximum allowable events from 20 to 10
- Limiting hours for rehearsal times to 8pm
- No 10 hour concerts- maximum 5 hours
- No all day concerts or music festivals

Regards will

Australia- is, was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Australia - Re-settling Boat people since 1788.

Extract from Final Business Case Summary: Sydney Football Stadium Redevelopment March 2018

Benefits

The benefits that could be generated by the project have been assessed and evaluated following extensive reviews of data from other jurisdictions, reviewed and verified for Infrastructure NSW by consultants KPMG.¹⁵

On the basis of KPMG's analysis, the forecast benefits of a new stadium can be summarised as follows:

- More sporting events and concerts: Estimated by Infrastructure NSW at between 49 to 52 events per year on average.¹⁶
- Increased attendances: Sporting attendance is estimated to increase by up to 15 per cent in an average year. The annual average attendance is expected to be as high as 1,280,320, with 11 per cent of these people coming from outside NSW.¹⁷

Footnotes

15 In recent times, KPMG have completed business cases for many stadia, convention centres and arena projects across Australia and internationally including Townsville Stadium, Western Sydney Stadium, Perth Optus Stadium, NIB Stadium, Perth Arena, Kai Tak Stadium Hong Kong, Christchurch Stadium, ICC Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centres.

16 The event calendar for the Sydney Football Stadium was developed by examining all contracted events, analysing events in the venue during the past five years and assessing the potential for new content. The proposed event schedule was cross-referenced by Office of Sport with that from other government-owned stadia for consistency and reasonableness.

17 The expected uplift in attendances were estimated based on KPMG's analysis and long-term actual attendances for sports codes and concerts at the Sydney Football Stadium, the attendance figures at other redeveloped and equivalent Australian venues and international peer reviewed academic research.