

WESTERN SYDNEY STADIUM (CONCEPT AND STAGE 1 DEMOLITION)

My major concerns include but are not limited to:

1. I will suffer a very serious loss of amenity if the Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Pool is demolished. My family as a whole will suffer this loss of amenity. Many neighbours, friends, acquaintances and people I tell about the proposal are alarmed and angry. While most will not ultimately lodge formal objections they will remember what is being done and they know that the government can stop the proposal. If the proposal goes ahead then all of these people will hold the government responsible.
2. The only basis on which most - including myself - would regard the proposal as barely tolerable would be if an outdoor replacement pool of at least the same size and quality was constructed and operational BEFORE the current Pool was closed and demolished.
3. Such a pool is essential for the health and wellbeing of adults and especially children. Elderly and disabled people depend on the existing Pool for affordable and accessible exercise. This is especially the case as the "baby boomer" generation reaches their 60-70s.
4. The existing Pool is an essential amenity for school to teach children to swim and to conduct carnivals and develop good exercise habits for in children.
5. Any satisfactory degree of consultation in the community would have revealed all of the above. The absence of any such satisfactory consultation renders this proposal unsupportable and it should therefore be rejected. I am a very keen football supporter but absolutely oppose the proposal.
6. 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 lodged by Venues NSW reports under Community Consultation ***"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"*** Therefore we believe Venues 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 community groups be carried out and a new consultation report submitted again with a new EIS submission.
7. The Parramatta War Memorial Pool currently leases land from the Parramatta Park Trust; this is Crown Land that was not identified in the EIS. Further the proposed change of use of Crown Land or land that is vested as part of the Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001- did not go through the statutory notification process as per the Crown Land Act.
8. World Heritage Listed Old Government House and its Vistas will be compromised by a stadium height of 42.5 metres. This size of development is inappropriate for surrounding historically sensitive area.
9. There are at least two more acceptable alternatives. The proposed new stadium could be constructed in the vicinity of the Rosehill Gardens Racecourse. Alternatively the proposed stadium could be modified and realigned so that the existing Pool need not be demolished.
10. The construction of the proposed stadium in the Rosehill Gardens Racecourse locality would complement the Racecourse as a recreational precinct. Existing heavy rail and proposed light rail would serve the facility. James Ruse Drive provides adequate vehicle access. Ultimately even the Parramatta Leagues Club could be rebuilt in the same precinct. This would be far less invasive of any nearby residential or passive parkland areas in terms of noise pollution and traffic congestion. This would also mean that there would be much less disturbance of the remnant asbestos contamination in the grounds at and around the existing Pool and stadium. It would also mean millions of dollars in savings that otherwise would have to be spent on demolition of the existing stadium and demolition and rebuilding of the existing Pool.
11. It would as another alternative to serve greater western Sydney be more sensible to construct a stadium in the Blacktown LGA. One exists at Olympic Park, one exists at Parramatta and a new one could service outer western Sydney. This would stimulate the outer western Sydney economy generally and increase employment opportunities in particular and reduce traffic congestion and travel distances.
12. There are very serious issues relating to the arguably unlawful use of Crown Lands that need to be carefully assessed in regard to this proposal. There are perhaps even Crown Land issues regarding the existing football related land uses. These all should be addressed before any proposal is approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this proposal.

Jon Hillman