

Submission on the Proposed Building of a New Stadium in Parramatta.

Richard and Maria Maguire, 18 Sturdee St, Wentworthville 2145

While we recognise the value of a stadium to members of the community, the project proposal has many faults as listed below.

We find that the EIS submitted for this project is premature and misleading. It 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, which is only regarding the upgrade of the stadium.

1. The community consultation requirement of the Department of Planning SEARS Report has not been fulfilled. The requirement is

“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”

However **the EIS states that only representatives from football teams and their association were consulted.**

There was no consultation with pool users, the residential community, or other community groups in the surrounding area. Since the proposal calls for the demolition of a popular swimming pool, used by many from the surrounding community their interests were not regarded in the EIS. The pool is not only important for the present, but will be increasingly important as climate change will bring elevated temperatures to the Parramatta area and many more people will require the opportunity to cool off will. If the pool is replaced with another pool, then this will be an additional expense to Parramatta ratepayers and there is no mention that they will be compensated for this.

2. The proposal simply states that the pool will be demolished, but it does not explain why or even if this would be necessary. Many people in the community have noted that a minor shift in the placement or orientation of the new stadium would allow it to be built without taking land from the pool.

3. The proposal is not just for a stadium as the title implies. The proposal is actually to obtain in addition to the stadium ‘20,000sqm of future use ancillary development’ but states neither what this would be, nor why it would be needed. If the proposers have more in mind than an upgrade of the stadium, they should be required to eliminate the 20,000 square meters from this proposal and make a separate proposal for any other projects they might wish to build somewhere.

4. The EIS and the project are based on an improper procedure regarding Crown land. The Parramatta War Memorial Pool currently leases land from the Parramatta Park Trust; this is Crown Land that was not identified in the EIS. By assuming the demolition of the pool, and the transfer of its land to the stadium, is change of use of Crown Land or land that is vested as part of the Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001. However this change did not go through the statutory notification process as per the Crown Land Act.

In the light of these problems I submit that the EIS submitted is premature and misleading. It 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, which is only regarding the upgrade of the stadium.