



Department of Planning and Environment  
23-33 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission on Western Sydney Stadium (Concept & Stage 1 Demolition) (SSD 7534)**

I am writing to make a submission and express my opposition to the current proposal to demolish Parramatta Pool and expand the Parramatta Stadium, known as Western Sydney Stadium (Concept & Stage 1 Demolition) (SSD 7534).

I consider that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposal has inadequately addressed two main requirements of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) as detailed below:

1. the social and economic "impacts on the local community from the loss of the existing swimming pool and an explanation of how these impacts have been addressed" has not been adequately addressed in the EA; and
2. The SEARs require that "Where relevant, the assessment of key issues..., and any other significant issues identified in the risk assessment, must include adequate baseline data...". There is inadequate baseline data used in the EA to make an accurate assessment of the impacts of the project, particularly on the community.

The main deficiency of the proposal is that the community of Parramatta will lose its swimming pool which is a valuable and much loved community asset. Not only will this asset be lost, but there are no immediate plans to replace this facility which is expected to be demolished before the end of the year. As stated in the EA:

*"the timing for provision of a new facility is unknown with construction anticipated to take a minimum of two years. As a result, there may be a period between decommissioning of the existing Parramatta Swimming Centre and provision of a new facility where no aquatic centre facilities are available within the local area".*

*"The impacts associated with demolition of the Parramatta Swimming Centre were identified as having a high residual risk rating given that a replacement pool may not be immediately available within the same local area."*

There will be significant social and economic impacts of losing Parramatta Pool. These impacts have not been adequately mitigated. There are a number of reasons why the loss of this community facility will be so significant:

1. Population growth in Parramatta is around 2.5 percent higher than that in Greater Western Sydney, therefore there is a high demand for recreational facilities. This demand is set to increase with the Parramatta North Urban Transformation and Transport Program which will enable the provision of around 2,700 new homes in multi-storey apartment buildings and the creation of 2,000 new jobs.
2. There are increasing numbers of students attending school in Parramatta with Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Public School proposed for redevelopment as a multi-storey school to accommodate increasing demand and a new primary school to be located at the Old Kings School site. Where will these students learn to swim?
3. The population is generally younger in Parramatta than other places in Sydney and comprises young families who are very likely to use the pool as a form of recreation;
4. To drive to the beach from Parramatta takes approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours and therefore people rely on going to a swimming pool instead of the beach for recreation;
5. The residents of Parramatta come from a very diverse range of cultural backgrounds. Many of these people who were born overseas cannot swim but they have a strong desire for their Australian born children to learn to swim and need a facility where they can do this;
6. There are large number of people living in apartments in Parramatta who cannot build their own backyard swimming pool and they will be further disadvantaged by this proposal;
7. Residents in Parramatta have lower household incomes compared with Greater Sydney, while Parramatta has the highest unemployment rate. Parramatta Pool is an inexpensive recreational activity for the people of Parramatta.

The EA sums it up perfectly when it states:

*“The loss of aquatic centre facilities would have a negative impact on the local community and would affect a broad range of members and users, including seniors, young children and their families, recreational and sport swimmers, as well as local schools for swimming carnivals and swimming lesson uses. These users would need to find similar facilities outside of the local area during this time, which may not be feasible for some users for a variety of reasons (including increased travel distances and differences in entry fees). The temporary loss of this facility may be perceived as a change to the local area’s sense of place and local identity, and may result in a loss of sporting and recreational activity for users who are unable or unwilling to utilise alternate facilities. Primary schools and high schools within the local area may also experience difficulty in sourcing alternate venues for swimming carnivals or school swimming lesson programs with increased competitiveness for use of such facilities by a large number of schools across the Greater Sydney region. Increased costs may also result from a need to transport students over greater distances to facilities in other areas.”*

However, the EA does not contain any baseline data, as required by the SEARs, on the number of people currently using the pool per day or per year. There is no estimation of the number of students that are currently enrolled in the learn to swim programs at the pool. There is also no estimation of the number of swimming carnivals that are held at the pool each year. There is no discussion as to whether there are similar facilities nearby that have the capacity to absorb the demand from Parramatta Pool for people to go for a swim, have a swimming lesson or attend or participate in a swimming carnival.

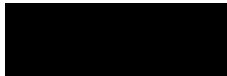
This proposal does not promote the principle of intergenerational equity which is that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

The proposal will lead to 10000 extra seats than the existing stadium and additional car parking. The EA contains inadequate justification as to why this additional seating is required and does not have an options analysis looking at other alternatives to the proposal.

Parramatta Swimming Pool is an outdoor pool surrounded by green grass and shady trees. It is a pleasant place for people of all ages and all ethnic backgrounds to enjoy on a hot summers day and is integral to the community of Parramatta.

I consider that the proposal has significant social impacts that have been inadequately assessed and cannot be mitigated against and I am strongly opposed to this proposal.

Regards,

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