



*East's
To Win*

Eastern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club Limited
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17 July 2019

Infrastructure NSW Macquarie House
Level 15, 167 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By e-mail:

SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT AND EVENT DAY PARKING

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further feedback relating specifically to event day car parking as part of stage 2 of the Significant Development Application for the Sydney Football Stadium.

The Alliance of Moore Park Sports (AMPS) has made a collective submission on this matter and I wish to draw out certain elements that relate specifically to the Sydney Roosters.

The Sydney Roosters are the pre-eminent sporting identity of the eastern suburbs of Sydney. With a supporter base of over 16,000 members, in partnership with the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club of over 45,000 members, we maintain the only unbroken run in first grade rugby league in Australia dating back to 1908, and have been a symbol to the community ever since.

In 2018 the Club fielded a team in the first ever Women's NRL Premiership match, making the Club one of only four to represent both men and women at the highest level of competition in rugby league in the southern hemisphere. This history and heritage is taken with the utmost seriousness by the Club, and a thriving Sydney Football Stadium lies at the heart of the Club's ongoing activities for the next 25 years and beyond, giving the community heroes from Dally Messenger and Arthur Beetson to Latrell Mitchell, James Tedesco and the inaugural winner of the Women's Golden Boot – Isabelle Kelly.





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There are very few areas in inner and eastern Sydney capable of housing elite professional sporting teams, and the Moore Park precinct is one of those areas. In having a precinct that can house training, administration and gameday activities, the precinct provides a home to sporting teams and gives a strong identity that resonates with the local community. Over the past couple decades, it has been seen many times that Clubs that lose, or do not develop, a strong community link, do not thrive.

Other Clubs have ensured their survival by playing games a significant distance away from their community and fan base, again with detrimental effects on the community link, and participation in their sport. Ensuring members, supporters, and the public at large can attend games through their personal choice of transport is fundamental to the longevity of the Club, a community asset, that we strongly feel should remain a community asset.

As a key tenant of the Sydney Football Stadium since its original opening in 1988, and recently committing to hire the redeveloped venue for 25 years from its completion in early 2022 for ten (10) fixtures per annum plus finals, I am writing to reinforce the continued necessity for event day parking for our Members and Supporters. This in fact has been an amenity that has been available to our patrons since 1988.

The issue of transportation links to a major stadium is a fundamental necessity in any modern city, and Sydney is no different. Access to the stadium needs to be made available through all modes of transport, and the data shows that a significant number, almost 50% for most games, continue to choose to drive their families to Moore Park, over all sporting codes.

Whilst it is acknowledged that public transport upgrades to the Moore Park precinct are significant, most welcomed and will be encouraged by the Club as the preferred mode of travel for our patrons to and from matches, circumstances prevail that public transport will not cater adequately for a number of fans, particularly for peak and blockbuster events, which this stadium is designed to generate and host. The light rail line to run past the stadium will have a reported capacity of up to 7,000 passengers per hour from the City, and while an excellent solution, this is not a one-stop-shop for the travel patterns of every attendee at our games, including the many fans living in our heartlands who do not have a direct line from the eastern suburbs to Moore Park, or indeed our members from all around Sydney and NSW to whom a private vehicle remains the only time economic method of travel for journeys of 30km+.





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Sufficient car parking capacity, must be considered a fundamental part of the redevelopment of the Moore Park precinct.

Often, those with a disability, elderly or families with young children require parking that is convenient to the stadium, particularly when you take in to account that a number of our matches are played late in the evening, which is already a challenge to promoting a family friendly event. As we continue to strive to make our game an inclusive family friendly event, attracting the full spectrum of Sydney's diverse population, we can not turn our backs on those who are not serviced conveniently by public transport, or choose not to use this as a primary source of transportation to and from matches for many reasons that include the personal safety of people and their children, time arriving home after an 8pm game on a midweek night and total commuting time.

Other significant Stadium redevelopments in Sydney and Parramatta have acknowledged this necessity, and it is a core reason why these stadiums are considered to be successful. ANZ Stadium at Sydney Olympic Park has 6 permanent substantial car parks to service its attendees, and Parramatta stadium has no less than 15 car parks within a 500m radius of the ground, including the car park at the Parramatta Leagues Club. The notion that the Sydney Football Stadium could be serviced by one public car park in the Entertainment Quarter, with a single point of entry and exit (Lang Road), is not consistent with the travel patterns of a City projected to rise to a population of 8 million people by 2050.

With the designs of the redeveloped venue indicating no tangible net gain in car parking within the stadium itself, the removal of any existing car parking in Moore Park, would certainly diminish the match day experience for a cross section of our Members & Supporters. To highlight this, having recently sent an INSW video of the redeveloped stadium to our Members, while the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, the number one concern was whether there would be the provision for adequate and even upgraded car parking facilities.

We believe the message from our members and supporters is clear, car parking represents a vital part of the attendance and transportation strategy for the Roosters playing in the Moore Park Precinct, and that the overwhelming view is for additional parking locations to improve the entry and exit from the precinct, and certainly not to limit parking to one single facility with a single point of entry and exit, bottlenecking a number of vital support roads. We also encourage the exploration of 'park & ride' options to other transport hubs such as Bondi Junction, Strathfield and Parramatta to





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further ease traffic congestion.

I cannot *over* emphasise the need to satisfy the requirements of our fans and the community and provide adequate car parking within the Moore Park Precinct as part of our broader match day experience. It is an essential element to ensuring the overall success of the venue in terms of maximising attendance, and returning a high quality Sydney Football Stadium to Sydney for the substantial investment being placed in this asset and the broader community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide constructive feedback with respect to this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Joe Kelly
Chief Executive Officer



Proud
Major
Partner
Since
2010



MG
MAGIC GLASS

