

Sydney Football Club

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Infrastructure NSW

Macquarie House,

Level 15, 167 Macquarie Street,

Sydney NSW 2000

## Dear Infrastructure NSW,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Sydney Football Club (Sydney FC) in response to the Stage 2 EIS for the Sydney Football Stadium Redevelopment currently on public exhibition.

Sydney FC has been a tenant of the Moore Park precinct, more specifically the Sydney Football Stadium (SFS) for 15 years. Over that time we have created a loyal and diverse fan base which continues to grow year on year. Our fan footprint geographically covers much of Sydney extending from Palm Beach down to Kiama and slightly inland. Our large geographic spread creates unique transport dilemmas for many of our fans as there is currently no direct or efficient public transport solution to encourage attendance to our matches at the SFS.

Research conducted has shown that 61% of Sydney FC fans rank having a car park/s close to the stadium as an important factor when determining whether to attend a Sydney FC match. Further research conducted and published in the SFS Redevelopment Transport Assessment reiterates that Sydney FC fans utilise driver/passenger as their mode of choice vastly outweighing the uptake of all other transport options offered. Sydney FC acknowledges that the private vehicle usage rate may decrease slightly with the implementation of the light rail system however our experience during displacement has shown despite relocating to a stadium which is closer to direct public transport options, most Sydney FC fans still prefer to drive to our matches.

The high use of private vehicle transport correlates with the composition of our fans and public transport versus private vehicle travel time to the SFS from their homes. Our Sydney FC supporter base is largely made up of young families who among others preference private transport. The weighty preference to private vehicle usage for young families is linked to it being quicker, easier and perceived to be safer for their family than catching multiple modes of public transport, particularly when our matches have late evening kick offs. The current event day parking in the Moore Park precinct, EP2 and EP3 is within close proximity to both the Sydney Cricket Ground and the SFS creating convenient access options for families with small children including those with prams. The implementation of family friendly spaces in and around the precinct should encourage even more families to attend Sydney FC and sporting matches more generally at the SFS therefore making car parking for this high use group a high priority and must-have inclusion in the redeveloped SFS plans.

The narrative exemplifying the importance of car parking is also evident when talking to fans that live a considerable distance from the SFS such as a Sydney FC member/s residing in Dee Why. For many of our northern beaches members it can take over 1 hour 25 minutes and a minimum of two buses to attend a 5.35pm



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Sydney FC match at the SFS on a Saturday afternoon. The same trip undertaken by the same member residing in Dee Why takes on average 40 minutes by private vehicle. A reduction of car parking in the Moore Park precinct and within close proximity to the SFS is a major deterrent when the alternative public transport travel time is double to what a fan would usually endure.

Displayed by the Dee Why member example above, the light rail will not affect the efficiency of the travel route of many Sydney FC fans. It is therefore of high importance to Sydney FC in ensuring our fans have a positive match day experience at the new stadium that sufficient and close event day car parking is included in the plans for the redeveloped SFS.

Sydney FC trusts Infrastructure NSW will take into consideration the necessity and strong benefit a segment of our core supporters; families, and fans travelling long distances receive from accessible car parking options near the Sydney Football Stadium and within the Moore Park precinct.

Kind regards,

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Danny Townsend, Chief Executive Officer