

The Secretary,

Public Accounts Committee

GPO BOX 3721

Darwin 0801

Re: \$20 million upgrade to Richardson Park

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am extremely disappointed in the lack of community consultation or adequate planning for the rushed process of re-developing Richardson Park in Ludmilla.

In addition to the lack of community consultation there has also been no consultation with crucial stakeholders such as Ludmilla Primary School and the Fannie Bay Racecourse. It is also unclear at this stage if the NRL are even interested in the proposal which was previously rejected by their organisation. No representatives from the NRL attended the public meeting.

I was shocked to hear at the public meeting held on Sunday 25th October that MP Dave Tollner's reason for rushing through with this re-development was so that he could open the stadium in time for a Paramatta Eels game in 2016. This is **not** a good enough reason to spend 20 million dollars of tax payer's money and **not** a good enough reason to rush through a decision that effects the whole of Darwin. He claimed at this meeting that the NRL was not able to afford to pay for a new stadium however this does **not** mean that tax payers should be propping up this sport with public funds.

Main areas of concern in regards to this development include:

- Traffic access: Tollner suggested widening Richardson Drive, opening Ludmilla Tce and an access road somewhere off Nemurluk Drive
- Parking: Tollner suggested Fannie Bay Racecourse but they have not been consulted.
- Noise and light buffering: This issue was raised at the meeting and there was clearly no plan prepared for how to minimise the very real disturbance that these factors would cause to local residents.
- Whilst Marrara sports precinct is the obvious place for a large stadium to be built this was wholly rejected as "too expensive" however there is no evidence provided to show what on going maintenance costs the Richardson Park redevelopment would incur and in particular no evidence that the costs of road/traffic/parking infrastructure would be less than a re-development at Marrara which already has this sort of roads and access infrastructure.
- There has been no evidence provided of an environmental impact study. It is well known that Richardson Park has a big issue with salt water tidal rises to name just one environmental issue.

I am against the current plan for the redevelopment of Richardson Park until due process of stakeholder consultation and proper costing of the above issues has been taken into account.

Yours faithfully

Melissa J Bolliger