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**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 November 2015 3:43 PM  
**To:** Public Accounts Committee LA  
**Subject:** Richardson Park submission.

Dear Committee

I am against spending any further Taxpayer funds on this project.

My reasoning stems from a long association with the DRL and NTRL going back to the early 60's. The last game played on Richardson Park a couple of years after it was commissioned was the Grand Final in 1964 when the competition games reverted to the Gardens oval for the 65, 66, and 67 seasons because of residual salt rising to the surface, a wet patch from a naturally occurring spring and some washing machine phosphate soap powder trickling from houses up that ran this water onto banana palms and gardens. A third of the oval was just dirt.

In 1966 after extensive remedial work by supporters and voluntary labour it was suggested to offer the land back to the Government as a Bus Depot and move to a 40 to 50 acre site at Marrara. This did not eventuate and the decision was made to stay put because of the amount of money and effort then spent to date.

No matter what works are done, it will always remain a second grade site.

The problems we encountered in the 60's are still here today. They are:

- a) Road access - buses cannot get through Ludmilla sharing with vehicles.
- b) Patrons park all over the place and it is gridlock at the end of games trying to exit. The 'new' roadway in has not alleviated this problem.
- c) The ground will have a 'salt' problem for years to come because when constructed by 2ACS and DRL supporters the sub-grade was cut too deep at the southern end to level the area out. There are drainage channels installed to alleviate this and are not efficient to the task.
- d) Grass cover that will grow on the field has to be salt tolerant and so limits what can be grown.
- e) Modern fertilizers of that era were trialled and discarded because of environment pollution scares on run offs and infection on cuts and gravel rashes/grass burns that players endured on the poor surface.
- f) The grounds were high maintenance and had to be regularly 'spiked' to allow water penetration to dilute the salt etc into the underground system installed.

There were other problems with drops in water pressure when sprinklers were turned on, possibly remediated, and the low site was stifling during the day if no breezes were blowing.

All in all I would suggest it is throwing good taxpayer money at this white elephant and a better use could be found for the site, maybe a 'future' middle school in this central location. I am against any loss of our Ludmilla school land being excised for this project. Any thoroughfare into the school area should also be rejected for schoolchildren safety. It will become 'common useage' and a danger to the school and a difficult task for staff to Police.

Should you require clarification on any point I can be contacted on details below.

Yours faithfully

R A [Bob] White