

Public Accounts Committee
GPO Box 3721 Darwin NT 0801
Email: pac@nt.gov.au
Date: 05 November 2015

RE: Inquiry into the funding of Rugby League Facilities in Darwin

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a Ludmilla Resident for 21 years.

From previous experience when NT Rugby operated games from the oval I can hear the PA from our house and can get trapped in the driveway by poor parking practices of the match day patrons. I believe this makes me a local stakeholder.

Although the press releases continue to mention consultation with stakeholders, there is complete disregard of the community wishes in relation to this matter, and

The Chief Minister was on the ABC the other day tallying up the cost of a greenfields or new facility to justify the reduced spend of \$20M on the existing Richardson Park.

He gave the approximate components

Seating : 10,000 seats x \$ 7,500 per seat : \$75M

Water/Power Lights Infrastructure : \$20M

Parking etc : \$30M

It is obvious from these rough figures that the \$20M will not go nearly far enough to establish a suitable facility as Richardson park is practically a greenfields site, especially in terms of parking facilities.

I do not support the expansion of Richardson Park for the following reasons, and would ask the Public Accounts committee to take this into consideration.

1. Loss of amenity

Not only is the crowd noise, entertainment noise and PA system intrusive into our home, but it will greatly increase from what we are used to given the larger crowds that are expected to attend.

It is likely the high intensity lights will also have an adverse effect on the amenity

2. NT Rugby league has already left

Games have been relocated along with all existing supporters and this was for good reason, Richardson park is difficult to access with a single lane long winding road that doesn't feed well into the surrounding suburbs.

3. Sports Master Plan?

The Press Release and Dpet of Sports website mentions a Sports Master Plan, surely this Plan should centre around a Sports central area like Marrara already dedicated to a range of facilities, and not an isolated area around Ludmilla.

4. Hopeless Parking in Surrounding Suburbs

Porter Street is 7 M wide that means that parking of a line of cars down one side effectively means single lane traffic . Not only does it make it impossible to move my trailer out of my property during events which could be weekly , but it also makes exit and entry to the property extremely dangerous due to visibility issues not to mention the pedestrian problems and antisocial experiences including rubbish left everywhere that are a hallmark of large crowds.

5. The Government spend is ill-defined

The government deadline for re-development appears to be driven by the fixture table of the NRL rather than a sensible consultative approach , there is no allocation in the budget for many items and operating costs are left out completely, Civil works have started already as the sound of the high pitched reversing beeper is further loss of amenity.

6. Not in my Backyard

This expansion is not only opposed by those living in the area but by those who live outside the area and support Rugby League. This idea was not conceived by a process that will provide a satisfactory outcome for all stakeholders , it seems to have been hastily contrived and as taxpayers and residents of the NT we deserve better from our Government leaders.