

SUBMISSION

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO

FUNDING OF RUGBY LEAGUE FACILITIES IN DARWIN

I am astounded that the major redevelopment of Richardson Park has already commenced, before the tendering process has closed, and before the findings of this Committee are known. The project has major earthworks and landfilling operations occurring in the Ludmilla Creek flood zone. Millions of dollars are currently being spent attempting to address flood mitigation in the Ludmilla Creek catchment and issues are still unresolved. What modeling has occurred to ensure the redevelopment will not negatively impact on the drainage and hydrology of the area? And I question the wisdom of placing such an expensive facility in a flood zone that is also impacted by saltwater tidal inundation through storm surge.

I am appalled that my taxpayer's money is being spent on the redevelopment of one facility for one football code so that occasional major events can occur, at the expense of grounds in the local primary school. Our public funding should be prioritised for our children's development, not mass spectator sporting events.

None of the economic arguments put forward for the redevelopment make sense. It seems more logical that the facility be built at Marrara, with occasional major events being held at the TIO stadium. It should be more cost effective to maintain a playing surface at Marrara due to the issues of saltwater intrusion at Richardson Park. Marrara has extensive and complementary services including public transport and parking facilities that are already in place.

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6 November 2015