

Attention: R Lambley

Chair of Committee

**REGARDING: Inquiry into Funding of Rugby League Facilities in Darwin**

I am writing in regards to the call for submissions about the proposed Richardson Park Re-Development. I am not in favour of this proposal for many reasons but the main ones I will now outline:

Firstly, the **location of Richardson Park is on a residential area and along the fence-line of a school.** This is a highly unsuitable location for a large sporting or other use venue where the proposed 10000 spectators will gather. The noise when the park had 1500 capacity was a constant nuisance to residents let alone with 8x that number. Along with parking, which residents have voiced concern over as their homes will be impacted, but the crowd cheering and constant siren sounds that is commonplace at a sporting venue is totally unacceptable in such close proximity to homes. A better location is at the sporting hub of Darwin where residential areas are much further away – Marrara.

Secondly, the **location is in surge and along one of the biggest catchment areas in Darwin – Ludmilla Creek** which leads to Ludmilla Bay. The clearing of natural bushland along Ludmilla Creek is destroying this area which is used by many species of birds and animals. Pollutants into the creek area as a result of using a high capacity venue- namely litter, water run-off from the fields, etc. will go into the creek and down in to the Bay. Not only will this affect the wildlife but there are still many people that also use the creek for fishing. The mangroves that will be impacted are nature's fish nurseries. For this alone, the proposed development should be stopped.

Thirdly, the amount of **money to be spent on this venue could be better spent upgrading and developing Marrara which is the current sports hub of Darwin.** I have watched big name acts at Marrara in the past, along with a variety of sporting events there. The money needed to upgrade Richardson Park could be better spent giving Rugby League a permanent home at Marrara. A stadium suitable for gigs, other events would be a benefit to Darwin's sporting hub – Marrara.

Richardson Park has had its day. I don't know anyone who thinks upgrading it will benefit the residents of Darwin, especially not the residents who live right beside it. Please let it be.

Regards

Nicole Kaye

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