

**Submission
No 73**

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL
RACECOURSE**

Name: Mrs Rachael McDonald

Date Received: 18 July 2024

To the Members of the Committee,

My name is Rachael McDonald and I'm a Western Sydney resident and Sydney racing participant.

I'm dismayed to hear of the proposed sale of Rosehill Racecourse - one of the very few entertainment venues in Western Sydney, more specifically in the city of Parramatta, which is quickly becoming Australia's largest.

Why would we target this venue for the site of housing development? Apart from the fact it's an already over-populated area, it's an incredibly significant venue in a great Australian sport, that will displace countless participants, small business owners, and employees.

This is not a bit-part amateur sport. It's the height of professional sport on the global stage. Not to exaggerate at all - every year Rosehill Racecourse attracts the best of the sport globally to compete on our doorstep.

Why would we allow this government to take that away from us residents of Western Sydney, and us participants? There are endless options for housing development. Why not stick to the plan of many decades, and continue freeing up vacant land for development?

This argument that people want to live near families and jobs is a distraction from the facts. For decades and decades people of Sydney have grown with the land as it was developed. There are suburbs like Bella Vista and Box Hill that not so long ago were farmland. Proper rural land. Now they are heavily populated suburbs with wall-to-wall houses.

These areas were once referred to as the sticks, now they are considered central. This is the success of development on vacant land, expanding Sydney so that more and more people can live in this city - not just live but thrive and grow families.

You don't achieve this by taking shortcuts and stuffing tens of thousands of more people into already over-populated suburbs.

And we certainly don't deserve having to sacrifice the showpiece of Western Sydney's entertainment offerings, and a venue central to one of Australia's biggest employers.

I urge you to reject the proposed sale of Rosehill Racecourse.

Kind regards,

Rachael McDonald