

NATIONAL ROADS AND CYCLISTS ASSOCIATION



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NRCA says no to V8 Super Car race at Olympic Park

The President of the National Roads and Cyclists Association, Mr Alan Odds, today called on the New South Wales Government to abandon its plans for a V8 Super Car race at Olympic Park next year. "This proposal has absolutely nothing going for it," said Mr Odds. "Quite frankly, I'm flabbergasted that the Government would even consider approving such an event, let alone contribute tax payer funds to it."

He went on to say the NRCA is opposed to the race for number of reasons. "Firstly, there is going to be an enormous amount of destruction to the Olympic Park precinct. Do we really want the parklands and the trees ripped up to accommodate these noisy, polluting race cars?"

Citing the Grand Prix in Melbourne where residents are denied access to vast areas of Albert Park for months at a time, he said that there will be massive disruption to the thousands of people who use the area for recreational purposes on a regular basis. "I feel sorry for the residents of Concord West, Homebush and Newington," he said. "They're just collateral damage in favour of the all too powerful car lobby."

"Apparently V8 racing is popular in the Western Suburbs, and that's fine with us, but isn't that what Eastern Creek is for? Why should we put tax payers' money into building a temporary race track when there is a perfectly good permanent facility down the road?" said Mr Odds.

"Everybody knows that Eastern Creek has been a financial disaster. How is it meant to repay the debt to New South Wales tax payers if motor racing is held elsewhere at further cost?"

Mr Odds said there are other reasons why the race should not go ahead. "This sends the wrong message to the community. Road congestion is out of control and climate change is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. Let's face it, car racing is all about selling more cars and we simply do not need that. We should be doing the exact opposite: discouraging car usage and promoting transport alternatives such as cycling. Why can't they fund a major cycling race? Sydney has the perfect terrain for a stage race."

Concluding his remarks, he said that public transport in Sydney is grossly underfunded. "Fixing the public transport fiasco should be the priority – not wasting public funds to promote an already over-funded car industry. God help us if this is one of (Roads Minister) Rozendaal's 'commonsense' solutions."

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