

My name is Martin Zammit, and I am a foundation member of the Australian Turf Club and former member of the Sydney Turf Club.

I would like to thank all the Councillors for the opportunity to speak here tonight. Some of you have already been generous with your time when speaking to you about this matter of Rosehill Gardens, as has Mr. Mark Taylor State MP for Winston Hills & Shadow Minister for Western Sydney, as well as Mr. Andrew Charlton Federal MP for Parramatta.

Rosehill racecourse is not only a Parramatta City icon, but a Western Sydney one as well. It is where for generations people have gone to watch our Melbourne Cup of the west, the Golden Slipper, and if it is sold future generations will be denied the opportunity to follow in this tradition.

Yes, Sydney might have Royal Randwick built on crown land, but Parramatta has Rosehill Gardens that is owned by the ATC. I see us more as custodians of this great asset to pass on to the next generation.

Rosehill's Autumn Carnival brings worldwide recognition to Parramatta with international horses & their connections coming here to compete at our track, as well as visitors & tourists from all over Australia, who inject money into the local economy with hotels, restaurants, local sights etc. all benefiting over the 3-week period.

All of this would be lost and the money would instead go to the cities of Sydney with Randwick and Liverpool, as the plan also calls for the knocking down the dilapidated Warwick Farm racecourse and rebuilding a new state of the art track on what is flood & contaminated land at Warwick Farm. Meaning Parramatta will also lose out to not just Sydney City but Liverpool as well. Liverpool City will end up with the new track and Parramatta the apartments.

Parramatta will also lose events outside racing held at Rosehill, like the Camping & Caravan show and Australia's largest Pool & Spa Expo. Rosehill racecourse even hosted the local government conference that was held at our Grand Pavilion in 2023.

This is not just about us members and racing participants, this is about the people who go to enjoy a day out at the races in the public stands. It's about the young people who get dressed up and go to socialise with their friends, and non-racegoers. All the people who not only will lose an icon in their area but have to cope with the strain of 40,000 apartments and 100,000 people.

Finally, how can Parramatta & Greater Western Sydney sustain this level of development of apartments that the government is intent on forcing on us? What are the Western Suburbs going to look like for our children, grandchildren & their quality of life?

We need to send a message to the government, the developers and those in the position of power in horse racing – stop trying to seduce us with 4 billion dollars. Leave the people this iconic race track, this beautiful green space to enjoy for future generations. The money is not worth the cost to the soul.