

The Olympic Scorecard

Together, the Sydney 2000 Olympics and Paralympics, will be the largest events, ever held in Australia, since European occupation.

For elite athletes, drawn from across the world, the Games should represent the supreme test of skill, endeavour and fair competition. For some, the pinnacle of their career. For the citizens of host cities and countries, organising, holding and living beyond the Games should elicit opportunities, community pride and a legacy of infrastructure.

The reality, for NSW citizens, is a complex mixture of social, economic and environmental benefits and costs.

Whilst a robust NSW economy, with Olympic influences, has spawned many jobs, the unemployed in disadvantaged parts of Sydney and rural regions have been left out.

A booming Sydney housing market, fuelled by low interest rates, urban consolidation and the Olympics, has seen a doubling of housing related poverty, and more homeless.

Villages and facilities at Homebush Bay may have leading edge environmental credentials, but toxic waste still fills the surrounding suburbs, urban bushland, and other natural resources are being degraded, and there are no guarantees that the "Green Games" approach will be incorporated into any future developments.

New recreational spaces have been created, and cultural events and Olympic parties are planned, but new laws have expanded policing powers and threaten civil liberties in the urban domain.

We have grand new sporting venues, but who will regularly use them, and at what price, after the Games. And we have SOCOG, still struggling to break even, and a State Budget, unable to fund new health, education and community services which are urgently needed.

The International Olympic Committee

The February visit of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and its head, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to Sydney, is a strong reminder, 7 months from the opening ceremony, **that time is desperately short to genuinely fix Sydney's Olympics shortcomings.**

The IOC's charter requires that the Olympic Games promote healthy and fair competition between the world's athletes, and provide benefits, without discrimination, to citizens of the host city and nation.

What is the Olympic Impact Coalition

Members of the Olympic Impact Coalition (OIC) are major environment, community, student, church, consumer, residents and political organisations which are attempting to spread the benefits and positive legacy of Sydney staging the 2000 Games to all groups in the community.

We are also working to minimise serious social and environmental costs, particularly to specific neighbourhoods hosting Olympic venues and transport, and to ensure that disadvantaged groups in our community do not pay the highest price.

What needs to happen

1. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) should agree to further reduce their share of revenues from the SOCOG Budget, if, despite recent decisions to cut spending and payments to the IOC, AOC and the NSW Government, SOCOG still returns a Budget deficit.
2. The IOC should request the NSW Government to honour United Nations conventions regarding the rights of indigenous people, especially in relation to the alienation of disputed lands (those under Native Title claim) for Olympic events.
3. (a) The IOC should remind the NSW Government of its United Nations requirements to stop arbitrary evictions of boarding and guest house residents, and other non tenants, in the lead up to the Games.
(b) The NSW Government should pass tenancy legislation covering such residents, amend existing tenancy legislation (to limit rent increases and introduce just cause eviction provisions) for these residents and tenants in general, release full details of its Olympics homelessness package, and adopt measures to increase the supply of affordable housing in Sydney and homeless persons services across NSW.
4. The IOC should adopt an explicit charter of civil, social and environmental principles, against which future host city bids are assessed. Future host city contracts should be made public by the IOC and the host city government. The contract should include specific performance measures, against which achievement of the principles can be judged.
5. (a) The IOC should commit itself to advancing beyond the level of environmental principles and practices, achieved in the planning and construction of the Sydney Games facilities, and ensure that bidding cities are also committed to advancing international environmental best practice.

- (b) The NSW Government should incorporate such principles and practices in State planning legislation, and in the activities of its own utilities.;
6. The IOC should request a post Olympics, host city report, which forms part of a NSW parliamentary evaluation of the costs and benefits of Sydney staging the Games;
7. (a) The NSW Government should revoke special powers to control movements of people, under the Homebush Bay and Sydney Harbour Foreshores Acts.
- (b) The NSW Homeless Persons Protocol should be established to ensure any street homeless person has the right to remain on the street, without harassment, or to receive an appropriate accommodation and support service.
- (c) The NSW Ombudsman should be given a specific reference and extra resources to monitor the interaction between homeless people and government agencies.
8. (a) The NSW Government should publicly release all post-Olympic management, pricing, financing and community access arrangements, for all Olympic facilities should be publicly released by the NSW Government.
- (b) A pricing concessions and disability access policy should be incorporated in all venue management contracts.
- The Olympics Impacts Coalition will seek a meeting with the IOC Executive during its Sydney visit, at which this statement will be presented.

Statement supported by:

Anglicare NSW	Macarthur Community Forum
Association Of Children's Welfare Agencies	Mental Health Co-ordinating Council Inc
Association of Self Help Organisations & Groups	Mercy Family Centre
Australian Early Childhood Association	National Union of Students
Australian Red Cross Society NSW	Network Of Community Activities
Bankstown Bushland Society	NSW Federation Of Housing Associations Inc
Burnside	NSW Meals On Wheels Association Inc
Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association (NSW)	Occasional Child Care Association Of NSW
Copwatch NSW	Older Women's Network
Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS)	Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Council On The Ageing (NSW) Inc	Reclaim the Streets
Dolores Women's Refuge	Rentwatchers
Family Support Services Association of NSW Inc	The Northcott Society
Green Games Watch	The Salvation Army
Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development	UTS Community Law and Legal Research Centre
Inner West Greens	Waverley Council
International Social Service (Australia)	Youth Accommodation Association
Local Government & Community Services Association	