

Moore parking a priority



PAUL NICOLAOU

If anyone could deliver a Beyonce concert to Sydney it would be the city's new venues supremo Rod McGeoch – after all, he delivered Sydney's world-best Olympic Games in 2000.

But, in the meantime, Mr McGeoch, interim chairman of Venues NSW, faces numerous challenges that his predecessor, Tony Shepherd, worked diligently to highlight and resolve. To this extent, to borrow an Olympics term, Mr McGeoch is picking up the baton from Mr Shepherd in this leg of the relay.

It seems the new venues head has already worked some things out – Sydney's desperate need for a stadium with a retractable roof, although he has his eyes on Homebush whereas the newly completed \$800m Allianz Stadium at Moore Park would be the preferred candidate.

The stadium should have had a roof in the first place but retrofitting one is certainly not out of the question.

Mr McGeoch also wants the six-concert limit at Allianz lifted. The arbitrary limit does big-event Sydney no favours.

And he has correctly called for the 2025 scheduled ban on parking on the grass at Moore Park to be deferred until a genuine solution is found.

Take a helicopter view of the Moore Park precinct and the big-picture solutions become easily apparent.

The helicopter view suggests the need for not only a carpark to service Allianz Stadium but also another bigger one to the west of Anzac Pde, which offers multiple benefits.

The western carpark would serve a valuable purpose at all times, not just for major events. It would enable people to park their cars close to the city before taking public transport into the CBD.

It is also ideally located to filter departing cars after big events into feeder roads.

Mr McGeoch, with his trademark confidence, enthusiasm and efficiency has a well-earned reputation for getting things done.

He will no doubt take a pragmatic view to his new responsibilities in leading Venues NSW.

Good luck Rod McGeoch in the new venues role and good luck also in your quest to bring Beyonce to our city.

Paul Nicolaou is executive director of Business Sydney.