



ALD Brian McGahen, of Sydney City Council, with the advertising sign on the rear of the Bradman Stand at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The council says the sign contravenes one of its by-laws governing outdoor hoardings.

# SCG TOLD IT IS NOT WINFIELD COUNTRY NOW

**SYDNEY CITY Council is threatening to take legal action against the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust if it does not remove an unauthorised cigarette advertisement from a grandstand.**

The council received a report last week from its director of planning, Mr Frank Hanson, recommending it write to the chairman of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust and demand that the sign be removed.

If that failed, the council should take the Trust to be Land and Environment court, Mr Hanson said.

The council has yet to act on the report.

Ald Brian McGahen said he complained about the sign more than a year ago, when residents in south Paddington pointed it out to him.

"My complaint is that it is fixed to the grandstand and directed to a residential area," Ald McGahen said.

"The owners have no right to do this without council approval.

"There is also a moral question involved because it is an ad for drugs being displayed on public land."

Residents are worried because the sign would reduce the amenity of the area, Ald McGahen said.

"It runs contrary to council wishes and good taste to advertise cigarettes or alcohol in this area," he said.

"Paddington residents have already had to put up with a lot of inconveniences from the Cricket Ground."

Officials of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust have argued that they do not need council approval for the sign because the Trust is exempt from the provisions of the Local Government Act.

However, the council's solicitor has advised that

the trust can be prosecuted under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, which does not provide an exemption.

Ald McGahen said he was confident the council would succeed in court because it won a similar case against advertising signs posted on the outer wall of the sports complex.

"I would think the Cricket Ground would have the good sense to remove the sign," Ald McGahen said.

"They say they want good relations with the community."

Ald McGahen said he planned to lodge objections to four more cigarette ads that have been posted on the clock tower at the Showground.