

Submission Opposing Development of Hunter Indoor Sports Centre ( HISC) In opening I clearly oppose the proposed development of the HISC based on the following rationale .Clearly the HISC development will have a detrimental effect on the lives of my grandchildren & family who within 100 metres of site & do use Wallarah & Blackley ovals for active & passive recreation regularly . While many arguments exist against the site of proposal I will list those most prominent .Car Parking .Proposed site does not provide sufficient car parks to cater for the 1000's of users/player/parents& spectators that Newcastle Basketball ( NB) claim will use facility .NB claim overflow parking can be utilised @ McDonald Jones Stadium (MJS) parking facilities to fulfill their development guidelines . Clearly this does not take into account events taking place simultaneously at MJS ( ie Knights NRL & Knights NWRL games , Venues NSW promoted Entertainment events , A League Soccer both men & womens etc ) In addition Newcastle Hockey Centre ( NHC) also adjoins the MJS carpark & traffic ingress/exiting also adversely impact on parking & traffic flow . Often Police officers are required on the main arterial Turton Rd to control traffic passing the proposed site when two existing centres , MJS & NHC have clashing events . Sometimes Venues NSW when conducting Entertainment Shows engage private Traffic Management controllers to manage traffic flow . This situation is occurring in the present so the NB proposed development will exacerbate issues for local community .Furthermore the Broadmeadow Place Strategy calls for overhaul of MJS car parking facilities in the future so the NB claim over-flow parking will exist at MJS may not be case going forward . Plus site is "owned" by Venues NSW who can cancel any arrangement without notice .NB advertises it will operate from 6am to 11pm , essentially congesting the communities tight streets with parked vehicles 17hrs per day .The effect of insufficient on site parking spaces will be basketball players/parents etc spilling over into nearby streets ie Gloucester, Marina, Hitchcock, Henderson & Rex . These streets are narrow already congested with NRL followers & basketball followers will further add to existing chaos .To add to the chaos that exists in area , vehicles presently use Monash Rd as route to the stadium plus NB plans to use it for overfill parking . More congestion will result as vehicles reverse in & out of nose to kerb style parks . Furthermore Entertainment Road Crews Semi trailers holding staging & sound equipment for entertainment functions held at MJS regularly park for long periods on Monash Rd awaiting permission to enter stadium to set up . This can occur with wait periods exceeding 12 hours which further congests traffic flow & movements .Traffic Unfortunately Bitzios Consulting Traffic Report which NB are using to support their DA is deficient in that camera locations they used in their report were deliberately located to give deceptive statistical results . They didn't want to show true position as it currently occurs during major events . It is a clear case of engaging a consultant to effect an outcome , honesty was the first casualty. If the DA is approved & proceeds when events begin to clash ie MJS , NH plus Basketball followers monopolising limited on site vehicle spaces will mean nearby streets are flooded with vehicles . They are tight contested passageways once vehicles are parked on either side so it is easy to envisage Monash & Wallarah Rds along with Rex Ave , Marina Ave , Duke St & Gloucester becoming grid-locked with desperate car owners seeking either a carpark or use back streets as a "rat run" . How will Emergency Vehicles access community members dwellings ie Ambulance or Fire Brigade ? Not an ideal planning outcome & exactly one of the main reasons stopping NB former site preference of Hillsborough from proceeding .There is over 130 residences on the southern side of Monash Rd directly & adversely impacted by the decision on this DA , your responsibility should be acknowledged to these residents when you come to a conclusion. The Newcastle Basketball DA proposal will increase traffic flows to an intolerable level , its a

terrible planning mistake if it proceeds .Turton Road is a major arterial road linking many suburbs & carries a huge volume of traffic now , to deliberately increase traffic & interactions is poor planning .Flooding Impact of Proposed DA .At present Wallarah & Blackley ovals form a safe overflow area in times of excess rainfall or storm events .In the past they were part of the alluvial swampland fed by Ker-ai Creek which runs from its headwaters in distant Lambton & draws on a substantial watershed . Today it's fed by roads , drains , rooftops of innumerable dwellings & transports a considerable volume of water .During storm events the Ker-ai Creek concrete canal which runs parallel to Monash Rd quickly reaches its maximum level quite quickly . Once this is combined with pre-saturated soil from earlier rain events the ovals become flooded .In 2007 a major storm event resulted in us witnessing flooding in dwellings above floorboards from Hobart Rd to Monash , 130 + residences were affected partially or significantly , with some occupants requiring swift water rescue teams .Ker-ai Creek runs into Styx Creek which in turn runs into Throsby Creek . This waterway is tidal affected and therefore if storm events combine with high King tide/ Moon cycle events the water backs up & floods out of existing drainage network .The proposed Broadmeadow Place Strategy & Hunter Park have already identified the existing Styx Creek drainage system needs radical overhaul & reconstruction before development of the planned development within Broadmeadow can proceed otherwise flooding risk is too high .If flooding risk is too high for the Broadmeadow Place Strategy to commence why allow a DA immediately adjacent to its western boundary that will further complicate & increase inflows into Ker-ai Creek / Styx Creek . Again it's poor planning to an extreme. MCDonald Jones Stadium is already notorious amongst local road users in the immediate Turton Road & Young Rd intersection area , it's already a flooding hotspot !The existing Flood Report for area clearly states that dwellings ( ie homes) floor levels will be insufficient to cope with expected flood events .They propose building a Flood Refuge !!! - clearly at the outset before DA is being fully analysed they , the proponents , are advocating building of a Flood Refuge . If that's not a blatant admission that a flooding threat to over 130 residences exists I'm unsure what is ! Their DA proposal will exaggerate flooding risk outside normal planning guidelines & to proceed without major flood mitigation works borders on being criminally liable .Loss of Sporting Fields & Community Green Space .Currently both Wallarah & Blackley Ovals are used many times every week by Soccer clubs & Cricket teams depending upon the season etc.A great portion of this is for young junior members of our community , an essential location due to its centrality of location to their homes & community .In addition the ovals form the vital basis of daily use by adjacent Lambton High School . The HS pays an annual fee to Newcastle City Council who manage the ovals on behalf of NSW Govt as land is Crown Land .From the High Schools perspective access to green space for sporting activities which form a vital part of education curriculum. Without oval availability an important part of education for over 1000 students will be greatly hindered & made more expensive .The Newcastle City Council staff have advocated the current Junior sporting groups who use Wallarah/Blackley relocate to Beresfield , a minimum 25 min drive of 20 Kms through extremely heavy afternoon traffic for regular training etc . Parents of junior players have indicated this is intolerable , stupid & risky . Their junior clubs will fold , Newcastle Basketball don't care about displacing others .Development Cost of Basketball Stadium / Staging Building/ Negative Effect on Community. The original NB DA in 2019 was planned for Hillsborough in Lake Macquarie Council area at a projected cost \$19M . This was abandoned when NSW Govt planning body declined its location for similar reasons to why we are opposing this sites location .Come forward 4 yrs NB now proposes another new stadium in

another poorly identified site however the cost has blown out to \$82M (pre gst) . They have been a Non For Profit Organisation operating from leased site at Broadmeadow for 55yrs . They haven't been able to maintain the old stadium & it's becoming non-functional due to their neglect .The NSW Govt gave the NB group a \$25M grant back in 2019 to build their proposed Hillsborough stadium which was later declined Govt Planning authority . Newcastle Basketball now propose to build a \$90M edifice & they have not revealed to community how they will fund \$wise. They plainly don't have the money otherwise a smart investment would've been to purchase their own land over the last 50+ yrs .As they don't own the planned land they are trying to grab ( ovals they propose to use is currently Crown Land , owned by all of us ) they are proposing to confiscate from Newcastle community valuable green space vital to junior sporting bodies & local High School .In addition the staging of this development is expected to span 4/5yrs , they propose doing it in stages . That's cause they don't have the money to build & complete at the outset. Approving authorities should not be enabling a State Significant Project if the body involved doesn't have the finances in place to build & complete a \$90m project , it makes a mockery of the word "significant " !If the staging & building of the proposed stadium is allowed to saunter along over 5yrs plus any cost estimate made today is irrelevant especially if NB own project cost increases from \$19m in 2019 to today's \$82m+ are any guide . This will have detrimental effects over a overly protracted period involving local residents , High School students/staff , other sporting codes which currently enjoy whole area . It'll become a grubby worksite for 5yrs , adversely affecting traffic movements , endangering High School children & staff attempting to negotiate safe travel near site , seriously what have locals done to deserve this ! Additionally NB will keep coming back to Govt & local community to bail them out financially , ie the will try to blackmail taxpayers into paying for something they could never afford themselves due to poor past management .Finally loss of community green space can not be ignored , it's absolutely vital for communities health & well being . It's a sad public official who approves depleting the inner parts of a city of valuable green space , it's a safety valve !Lack of Consultation & Deliberate Deception by Newcastle City Council .Right from the outset once the Hillsborough site was declined by Govt Planning area the Newcastle City Council staff & Newcastle Basketball conducted over 20 secret meetings behind closed doors . In most cases these secret planning sessions didn't involve all elected councillors , only a select few within the " Basketball Cliche" .No honest forthright consultation with local community , users ie Junior sporting bodies or High School staff/ PC etc . were conducted . This I honestly say was the position the secretive cliché from NCC adopted .Now they ( NCC) are claiming they weren't involved in promoting the current HISC site at Wallarah . They are blaming State Govt departments . Plainly they are lying as one of NCC directors wrote an opinion piece to Newcastle Herald in April 2024 fully advocating confiscation of ovals from community to give Newcastle Basketball a free bite at sorely need community land . The deception is gross & it has led to one NCC proponent of HISC being sacked from her Lord Mayorial role by the community of Newcastle in recent Local Govt Elections . The community is sick of the deceit !Concluding can I say as a former basketball player that is old enough to recall playing at Newcastle's original Basketball stadium @ Wickham over 55 yrs ago & followed by games at the present Broadmeadow stadium that the need for a replacement stadium to take sport into future is sorely needed .However , this location proposed is plainly wrong , similar to NB's previous attempt @Hillsborough.It's time for them to stop hiding under cloak of a Non Profit Organisation , become professionally managed , attract proper Corporate sponsorship , buy their own site or even better ask Govt to allocate land within the

Broadmeadow Place Strategy where ample land & parking exists ie Newcastle Trotting complex which soon to relocate to Maitland/Cessnock area. Neil Robinson