

The Hon Sonia Hornery MP State Member for Wallsend Deputy Speaker

Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Assembly



6 November 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Hunter Indoor Sports Centre
Application Number: SSD-65595459
Submission: Oppose

For full disclosure, the proposed development falls within my electorate boundary.

I am writing this submission as an individual citizen and do not expect any further weighting or expectation to be held on this submission due to my position in the community.

I am making this submission against the development for a number of reasons, which I have outlined below:

Lack of Consultation

The site of Wallarah and Blackley Ovals was chosen by Basketball Association of Newcastle, in conjunction with City of Newcastle and the former government, just days prior to the 2023 State election. The timing was a pre-election stunt and there was zero community consultation. As the local MP for the area in which the ovals are based, I was blindsided by this announcement.

The local residents of the area surrounding the ovals were also blindsided by the announcement. I have been contacted by approximately 100 constituents who oppose this proposed development.

Nearby Lambton High School students, teachers, faculty and parents and guardians were not consulted.

Sporting clubs who use the ovals were not consulted.

Loss of Amenity for Lambton High School students & Impact on Teachers

The ovals are used every school day for Lambton High School. The school has no other green space for sport, PE lessons, play area or sports carnivals.



Currently, students and teachers can access the ovals directly from the back of the school. If they are forced to use nearby Arthur Edden Oval, they will have to leave the school grounds, cross Womboin Road and walk up to that oval. In doing so, students will lose five minutes either side of their lunch, recess or lesson time.

Teachers have informed me that they are opposed to this change, as it will be a loss of lesson time or play time for the students and it will require additional resourcing to supervise the students away from the school.

Lambton High School P&C Association conducted a survey of families in late 2023, with 75% of respondents saying they were opposed to the development occurring on the ovals.

Loss of Amenity for Cricket Clubs

Cricket clubs were not consulted. Wests Cricket Club are opposed to the development as there is already a shortage of cricket ovals in the Local Government Area.

Loss of Amenity for Football Clubs

Lambton Jaffas Football Club were not consulted and are opposed to the development. It is proposed that the Jaffas may have to relocate their games to Tarro (approximately 16 km away). This could potentially impact on junior football development for one of the leading clubs in the region.

Loss of Community Asset for Residents

Local residents who walk around the ovals and enjoy the peace and tranquillity will have this option removed from them. Views will be blocked by the stadium.

Aboriginal Land Claim – Undetermined

The local Awabakal people have a land claim on the entire Wallarah and Blackley Ovals site which is underdetermined. It is unknown if they will relinquish this land claim or if they are to be compensated for the use of this land if their claim is successful.

Parking Issues

The community already experience major parking issues when Newcastle Knights NRL games are played across the road.

Traffic Concerns

The single entry/exit point on Turton Road is deeply concerning. About five months ago, Transport for NSW provided my office and I with a briefing that proposed an exit route along the boundary of Wallarah Oval and Arthur Edden Oval, that would exit onto Womboin Road and allow traffic to leave via Womboin and Young Roads, accessing the traffic lights at Young Road and minimising the flow going directly in and out via Turton Road. I am unsure why this did not eventuate, however it is clear the single entry/exit point on Turton Road will create traffic chaos on a busy event day.

Flooding Concerns

The fields historically have been, and still are, used as a flood overflow plain due to their proximity to the drain that runs parallel. With the proposed Broadmeadow Place Strategy, it is likely that more flood overflow will be required.

With a large concrete car park and development, this could spell doom for the nearby residents on Monash Rd and surrounding streets.

For the reasons outlined above, I urge you to carefully consider my submission and those of the many residents that have made their own submissions opposing this proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonia Hornery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Hon Sonia Hornery MP
State Member for Wallsend
Deputy Speaker