

I strongly object the SSD application for the Development of the Newcastle Basketball Stadium (HISC) at Wallarah and Blakeley Ovals, New Lambton for the following reasons:

1. There is an Aboriginal Land Claim under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1983) on Lots

As an Aboriginal member of the community, I have been a part of the process whereby Newcastle Basketball (Formally known as Newcastle Basketball) approached our CEO in June, 2024 requesting that the Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council lift the land claim so that they can build on the Wallarah and Blakely Ovals.

Newcastle Basketball were made aware of the land claim in January of 2024 as per the EIS **Appendix D - Engagement Summary – HISC**. Newcastle Basketball waited 6 months to approach the Awabakal CEO requesting that the ALAC and its members consent to removing the land claim. In fact, their first Aboriginal Engagement was with Karuah Land Council to discuss the importance of the stadium on Awabakal Country.

A meeting was held on 3rd July 2024 where our community was provided with the opportunity to discuss this matter, and included information from Newcastle Basketball about the proposed benefits to the community. The Board decided to also invite representatives of the ‘Save our Lambton Ovals (Formally Wallarah and Blakely) to ensure both sides had representation to make an informed decision.

Newcastle Basketball do not have any funding for purchase of land and therefore as a member, I oppose the gifting of Crown land to an organisation that only has \$25 Million for a project earmarked to cost \$91.875 million (Appendix G - Estimated Development Cost (EDC) – HISC– Page 16) over the traditional owners of the land and the Awabakal Land Council

I specifically refer to the following two reports within the EIS:

- **Appendix D - Engagement Summary – NEWCASTLE BASKETBALL**
- **Appendix PP - Connecting With Country Report**

Indigenous Community – Awabakal	Newcastle Basketballs First Nations Working Group (NBFNWG) – meeting 7 November 2023, attended by Artefact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Discussion of the different forms engagement could take.▪ Suggestions for other groups to be consulted in relation to indigenous matters.	Artefact contacted Karuah LALC and discussed the positive impacts of basketball resulting from the Karuah Kinnections program. Refer Section 7.4.2 of the CwC report at Appendix PP .
	Walk on Country with Awabakal LALC 18 January 2024. Attended by project team members from EJE, Terras, BANL and APP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identification of key aspects of importance about country and how it would have been used.	The walk on country has informed the project design to ensure the facility is culturally safe and welcoming to First Nations players and attendees. Refer Section 7.4.3 of the CwC report at Appendix PP .

Newcastle Basketball (HISC) used Karuah Land Council as Community Engagement for matters directly relating to land of the Awabakal Land Council, not the Karuah Land Council (See below).

The Karuah Kinnections program is a Worimi and Karuah Land Council representative participating on Awabakal Country, and therefore their guidance on this matter has no relevance to the land at New Lambton.

Additionally, in January 2024, the HISC undertook a ‘Walk on Country’ with Awabakal Land Council, utilising many quotes from our CEO about what Country meant,

A workshop was held on the 11th April, 2024 ‘Sharing First Nations values about the site and area’ and ‘Identification of ways Country could be expressed in the design of the Newcastle Basketball’ – this was facilitated by businesses that have no connection to the Newcastle local Aboriginal community, and it is astronomically clear that the ONLY thing that the Newcastle Basketball has considered from the time spent with Kumarah Kelly and Matt Syron from the Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council and the ‘Connecting to Country

Report’ was about ‘design’– Not the importance of land preservation, particularly land that has a Land Claim on it – it was purely about the aesthetics of this building

	Workshop held on the 11 April 2024 with NBFNWG. Facilitated by Artefact, and attended by EJE and Terras Landscape Architects and APP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sharing of First Nations values about the site and area▪ Identification of ways Country could be expressed in the design of the HISC	The workshop provided valuable input regarding the wider opportunities, & further interaction & input will be implemented throughout the design & documentation phases. Refer Section 7.4.6.1 of the CwC report at Appendix PP .
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Connecting with Country

3.0 CONSIDERING COUNTRY

This section provides an overview of Aboriginal understanding of Country and how the consideration of, and connection to, Country can influence and inform design.

3.1 What is Country?

[Country] is all sacred, every ounce of Country is important, every ounce of Country served a purpose, and it doesn't need to be just birthing sites or burial sites for it to be important or respected.

Kumarah Kelly, CEO Awabakal LALC, 18 January 2024

The concept of Country does not have a corresponding concept in Western culture but is a deeply personal yet universal worldview fundamental to Aboriginal and First Nations people. Individual relationships with and definitions of “Country” are deeply nuanced, and can vary depending on a person’s life experience, place, and personal beliefs. It is key, therefore, to deeply listen to the perspectives of Aboriginal people and remove Western biases when thinking about Country.

We know we need to develop, we need infrastructure, but we need to pay respect to the land first and foremost.

Kumarah Kelly, CEO Awabakal LALC, 18 January 2024

This demonstrates to me, that the ‘Connecting to Country’ report, was only generated to meet the Development Application requirements. It certainly has not been genuine concern for the Aboriginal communities’ beliefs and needs nor the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and the right for our community to claim land on Crown Land according to the NSW Aboriginal Land rights act

2. Conflict of Interest – Newcastle Soccer Club Letter of SupportAppendix LL – Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report Final EIS V2

Displacement of New Lambton Teams to Tarro Reserve and flow on affect at Tarro Reserve.

Key Sporting Bodies Newcastle District Cricket Association Newcastle Football Association Lambton Jaffas Football Club	CN engaged on behalf of the project with a number of sporting associations as the peak bodies for the management and operation of sporting fields within the LGA as well as specifically Wallarah and Blakeley Ovals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project overview, project timing▪	Newcastle and District Cricket Association and Newcastle Football have both provided written letters of support for the project.
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I would like to draw to attention the Letter of support from Newcastle Football (*Appendix TWO of my Objection*) which is a direct Conflict of Interest and abuse of position from Mr Kevin Allen and should not be taken into consideration to represent the current Football Clubs who are long term and current users of Wallarah and Blakely Ovals.

As a previous committee member of Beresfield Touch Association, the longest serving and largest user of Tarro Reserve, we were approached by Kevin Allen (long standing committee member of Beresfield Soccer Club) over a year ago informing us that we had *'overstayed our welcome and you are going back to your old fields'* at Tarro Reserve (we currently share amenities and Kevin has been opposed to this for several years). He informed our secretary that we would be relocating to *'the back fields, and New Lambton soccer clubs were being relocated to Tarro'*. We were alarmed that Kevin had been consulting with Newcastle Council representatives without other users being notified of this arrangement.

On the 19th July, 2024, there was an article in the Newcastle Herald and an announcement on the NCC Page to inform Newcastle residents that a new amenities building at Tarro Reserve. At the moment, there are already 2 existing amenities that both require significant upgrades, but the new amenity is for Beresfield Football, and will be placed on one of our fields.

The letter of support from Kevin to move local teams 18km away through extensive traffic was all for the benefit of his almost defunct affiliate. At the time of the letter, Beresfield Football Club only had 7 Junior teams. Beresfield Touch had 64 teams, 12 Rep teams, 55% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation and 49% Female participation. Should the HISC be approved, there are repercussions for other sports at other locations that have not been considered in any reports.

We offered a support letter to council to improve the current amenities for our women (of whom represent more than Beresfield Soccer as a whole). We have not been a part of the announcement, not been informed of the outcome and had no input in the design.

It is clear that the Kevin held a position with Newcastle Football Club and Beresfield Soccer Club as noted in the letter and a direct conflict of that letter supporting the relocation of New Lambton teams and supporting the HISC Development at Wallarah was done to directly increase his team registrations and facility build. In fact, he mentions the relocation of teams and new facilities months before the announcement, which shows he had knowledge and the letter should not be considered as representative of all stakeholders within the Newcastle football community.

Finally in addition to this point, MULTIPLE sports will be displaced if this development is approved as well as a High School that utilises the space without the requirement of VOR (Variation of routines) as excursions. Whilst proponents for this Development say its time, their players need a new space, they have a poor facility, we must consider the long standing sporting clubs that will be impacted and have also had poor facilities, grounds and amenities. We cannot in all consciousness rob from Peter to pay Paul.

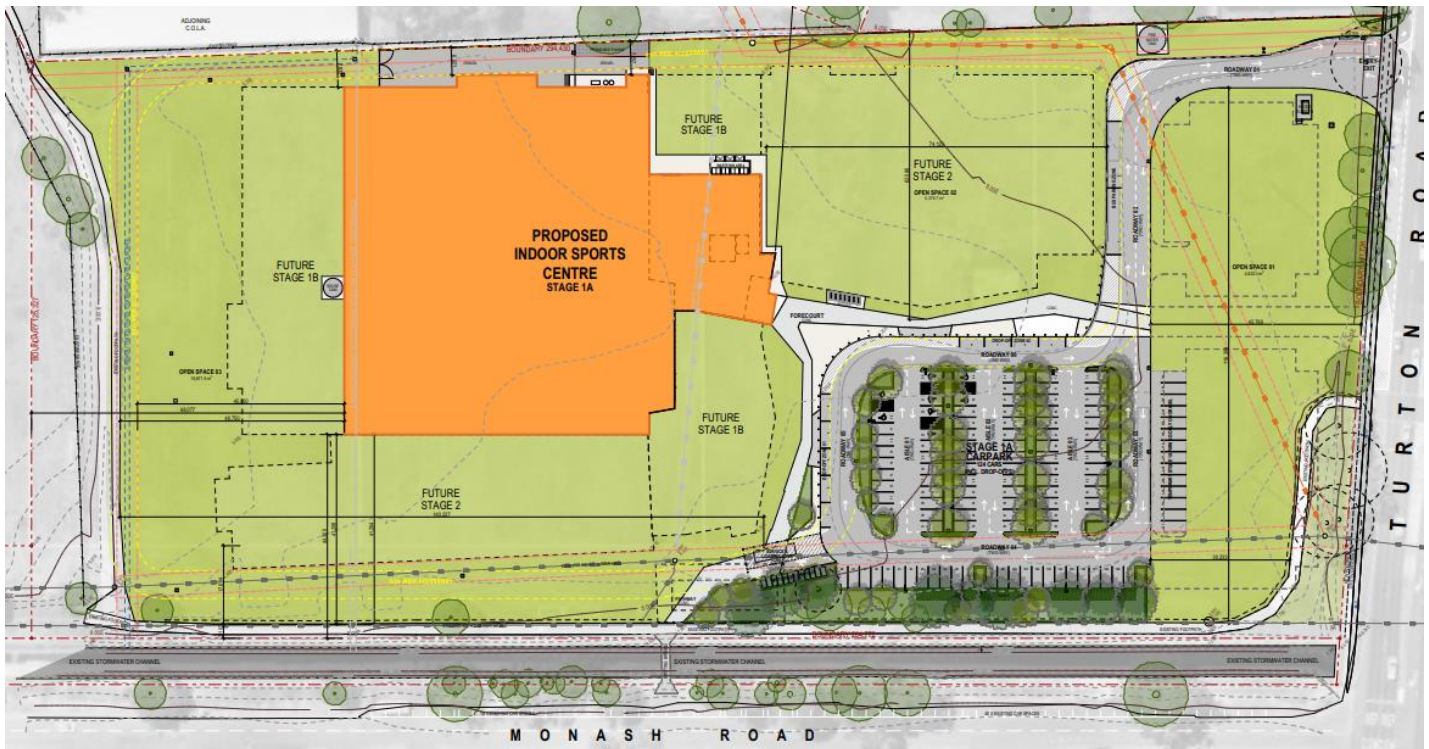
2. Estimated Cost of Development – Appendix G

At the moment, Newcastle Basketball only has \$25 million dollars for the full development, the ECD is currently sitting at \$90,875,860.58. This does not represent further inflationary costs in the coming years.

The money that NB has only represents 27% of the required amount to complete all stages of the SSD. It is unfathomable to consider that the HISC will obtain a further 89 Million dollars of grants and funding to complete this stadium in a time of significant cost of living issues to the NSW people. Therefore, this enforces that fact that this is not a viable fiscal option to approve this location when the location of 1A represents roughly 1/3 of the land usage.

The concept of redirecting other sports off this land when the development will only use 1/3 capacity of the land until further funding is available is not reasonable when 100% of this land is currently utilised by:

- Lambton High School – Lunch 1, Lunch 2, PDHPE, Extra Curricular Sport that do not require permission slips and VOR (Variation of routine) paperwork
- Soccer x 2 clubs
- Cricket x 2 clubs



2. Lambton High School usage

Lambton High School has used the fields at Wallarah and Blakely since the 1980s, as a student of the 1990s and having my son attend only 5 years ago, I am acutely aware of the importance of the land for the following reasons:

- Should LHS lose the access to Wallarah & Blakely ovals, there is no greenspace within the perimeter of the school to use for PDHPE curriculum requirements for field sports, Lunch breaks, Extra Curricular activities and Emergency Evacuations. LHS will also lose the ability to host other schools in football, touch, oztag and soccer games at Wallarah.
- Whilst the HISC has offered the school space for their students to participate in indoor sports and a small grass area, each time a student leaves the school grounds, a VOR (Variation of routine) is required – this is additional paperwork on already overworked teachers. Additionally, LHS already has several indoor sport facilities, outdoor basketball courts and mini basketball courts (See Appendix Four)

3. Traffic & Parking Considerations

1. Exit & Traffic Concerns– Left turn onto Turton (impacts)

For cars departing the basketball stadium heading to Southern suburbs there is no right turn on Turton Road, therefore, basketball participants will have to take a left turn onto Young Road past a High school and residential area, left onto Womboin then left onto Wallarah Road. As there is no Left turn to the Southern suburbs at the Turton and Lambton Road intersection, cars will be dispersed through local streets. For example, from Wallarah – Right onto Hobart Road, Left onto Rugby Road and through to Regent Street. This is on top of the cars that are already parked onto local streets right next to the proposed sites – Monash, Gloucester, Marina, Hitchcock, Henderson, Rex and Duke. This is without consideration of streets around Womboin.

These residential streets are narrow, and when events are on at McDonald Jones or the hockey stadium, there is gridlock, increased inability to get emergency services into the streets affected. Residents have cars parked in front of their driveways, and have difficulties getting in and out of driveways. Should the HSIC be approved, this

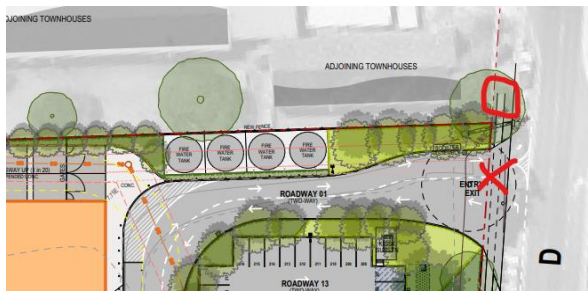
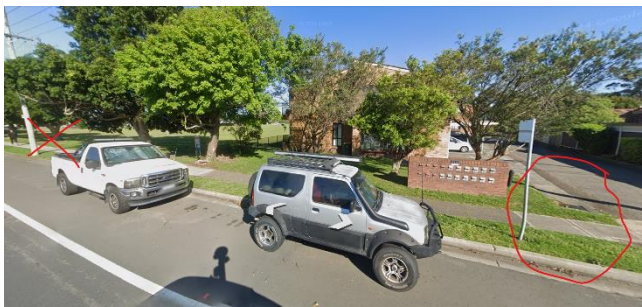
will only add to an already chaotic local gridlock which will impact the ability to get emergency services down these streets.

Additionally, Approx 3,200 new dwellings will be built at the newly proposed ‘*The Broadmeadow Place Strategy*’ (Appendix

Additionally, the units at 303 Turton Road will have the exit from the basketball stadium only 5-10 metres to the right of their only entry/exit point. This access point provides for 20 units and the residents within (see photo below) and will significantly impact the traffic flow in this area as a further 20 metres up is a main pedestrian crossing.

Appendix FIVE demonstrates that the traffic data is unreliable as there were numerous events preventing accurate traffic readings.

Looking at the B



View of where HISC Exit will be to the Units at 303 Turton Road. The dots represent exit from basketball, exit from 303 Turton Road, and major intersection crossing all within 100 metres.

5.1 Access

5.1.1 Driveway Location

Direct access to **Turton Road** is proposed, allowing for a left in and left out only, similar to other similar users on the opposite side of Turton Road e.g. the hockey centre. Users of this sporting facility accept this constraint and adjust their approach and departure routes accordingly.

This driveway has been located on the northern edge of the site taking into consideration the pedestrian crossing and cycling demands to the south and the layout of the adjacent roadway.

The inclusion of an auxiliary left turn lane shall see the removal of parking on the north side of the signalised pedestrian crossing.

5.1.2 Sight Distances

Turton Road in this location provides a straight and level alignment allowing for visibility to the right for exiting vehicles and good forward visibility for drivers approaching the access. The access provides a left turn deceleration lane. Exiting vehicles benefit from gaps in the traffic movement created by the signals at Lambton Road to the south.

Allowing for the frontage speed of 60km/hr Austroads requires a minimum sight distance of 114 metres and a desirable distance of 123 metres.

The visibility has been checked on site and it exceeds 127 metres to the south (right) being to Monash Road. As the driveway is left out only, visibility to the north (left) does not require review.



■ Photo 4 View to right for drivers exiting the proposed site access on Turton Road

Community Consultation (ALALC Members) - Newcastle Basketball proposed development

71 Prospect Rd, Garden Suburb NSW 2289, Australia

About Discussion

Details

15 people responded



Event by Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council

71 Prospect Rd, Garden Suburb NSW 2289, Australia

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Dear Awabakal LALC Members. In March this year, Newcastle Basketball announced it would not be proceeding with its previously communicated stadium relocation to Lake Macquarie. Ins... [See more](#)

Cardiff, New South Wales, Australia



71 Prospect Rd, Garden Suburb NSW 2289, Australia
71 Prospect Rd, Garden Suburb NSW 2289, Australia

Meet your host

Newcastle Basketball \$30 million stadium for New Lambton

REBECCA RIDDLE

MARCH 22, 2023

New Lambton will soon be home to Newcastle Basketball, thanks to a state-of-the-art \$30 million stadium.

The 12-court facility will be built on Crown Land opposite McDonald Jones Stadium, after an earlier plan to move to Lake Macquarie was foiled.

The NSW Government will fund the construction of the regional level, indoor basketball premises after committing an additional \$5 million to a previous \$25 million commitment for what was then intended to be a new stadium on Hillsborough Road, Charlestown.

The stadium will be built in two phases; stage one seeing the construction of up to eight courts, and stage two including a show court for 2,000 spectators.

Independent Lake Macquarie MP Greg Piper, who secured the additional funding commitment from the NSW Government, said the facility would be a major boost for basketball in the region.

"I'm really glad the government has agreed to this extra funding and I'm hopeful that Labor will match it," Mr Piper said.

"It's a shame the stadium couldn't be built on the originally-intended site in Lake Macquarie, but this still gives us a first-class regional facility which can be accessed by everyone from Morisset to Port Stephens.

"We all know that construction costs have soared by more than 20% in recent years, so this additional money will make sure we get the regional stadium we deserve rather than a scaled-back version of the original.

7.4 Letter of Support – Newcastle Football



Unit 1, 17 Riverside Drive
Mayfield West 2304

02 49600 697

We are a Good Sports club



staff@newcastlefootball.com.au
www.newcastlefootball.com.au

29th February 2024

Matt Neason
Basketball NSW
General Manager

Matt,

I write to you on behalf of both Newcastle Football and Beresfield Football Club (who is a member club of our association) in support of Newcastle Basketball's State Significate Development Application.

Newcastle Football on behalf of it's self and our member club Beresfield Football club will continue to the ongoing commitment to collaboratively working with City of Newcastle on the proposed relocation solutions for football teams that currently use Wallarah and Blackley Ovals.

The relocation will be planned to minimise disruption and ensure equitable access to alternative football facilities within the Newcastle LGA.

It is intended that these solutions will provide our Association's Clubs with continued access to Newcastle Sports Grounds with improved Amenities.

Once again, we fully support the Newcastle Basketball's application.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Allen".

Kevin Allen
Director Newcastle Football



APPENDIX 3

HISC Parking Strategy – the proposal to park at McDonald Jones Stadium will not exist once the Broadmeadow Strategy begins development. The carpark is earmarked for a motel and accommodation.

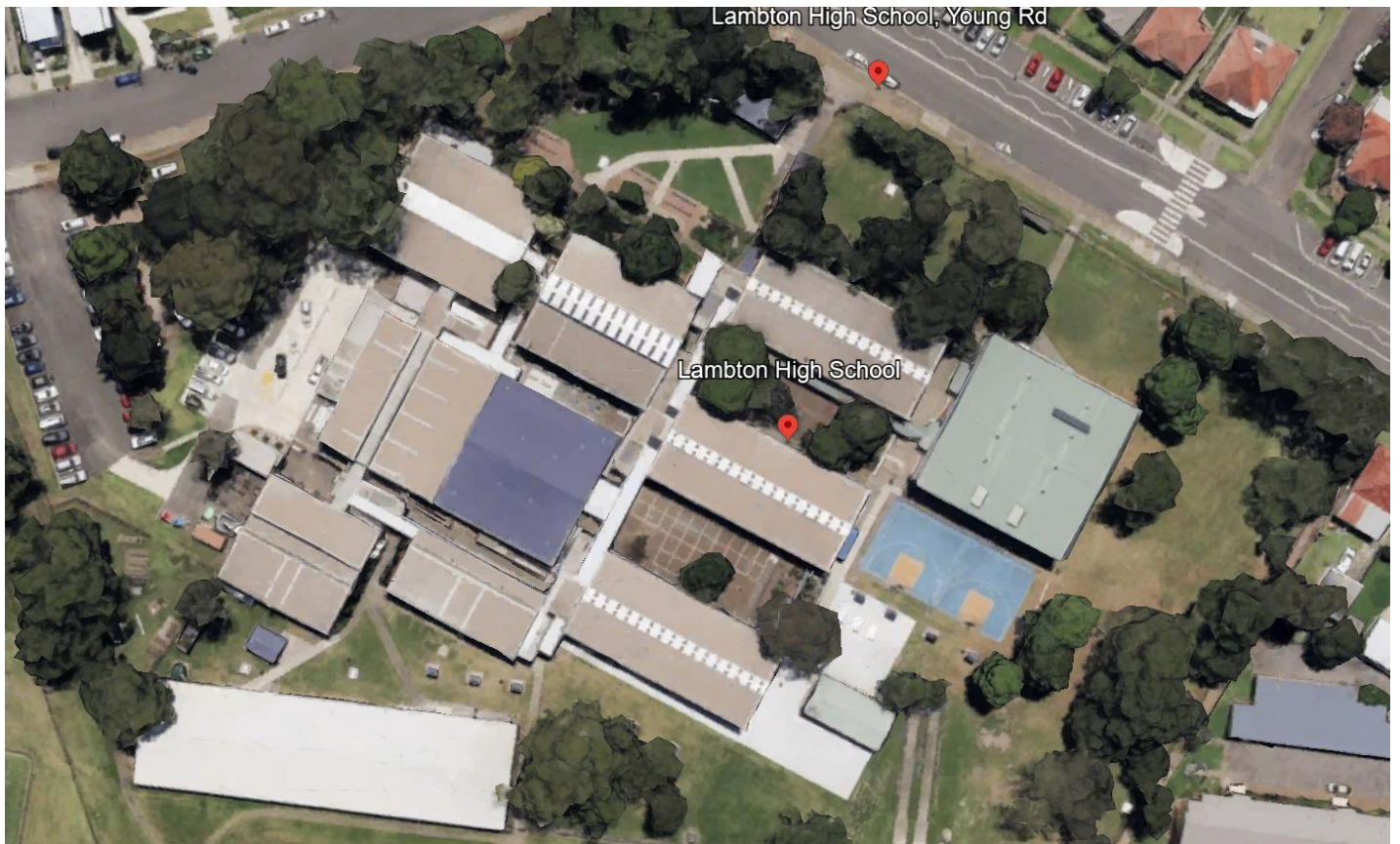
BROADMEADOW STRATEGY - map

https://hdp-au-prod-app-newcastle-haveyoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/2817/0252/5417/20230228_Broadmeadow_InvestigationArea_Aerial_A3P_RevB.pdf

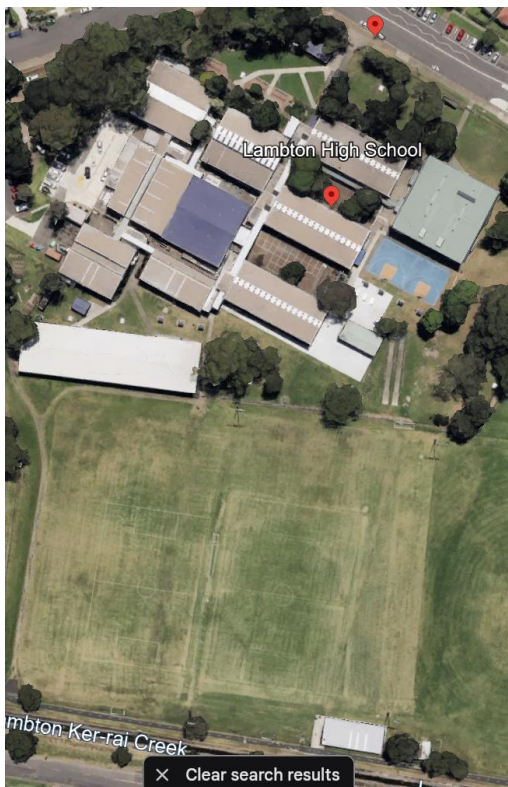
[Broadmeadow Place Strategy | Have Your Say Newcastle](#)

ONE FOUR

Arial view of LHS without Wallarah and Blakely greenspace – demonstrates limited grass space for 1200 students. Shows Cola with undercover basketball, 2 half basketball courts and indoor halls for indoor sports x 2



Arial view of LHS with Wallarah and Blakely as a part of the school perimeter and demonstrates loss of greenspace directly attached to the school and not requiring permission forms each time students leave the school



Turton Road / Griffiths Road

- **Turton Road North RT:** Queue in right turn cannot be verified due to camera coverage limitations
- **Turton Road South:** Queue in through turn cannot be verified due to limitations of camera set-up
- **Griffiths Road West:** Through turn in PM does not meet the range for queue length but it does satisfy the modelled number of vehicle and so the length could be unsatisfactory due to variable queue length as the range considers vehicles of only 6m. Right turn on the other hand, is unacceptable only 1m of queue length which is negligible and can be deemed to be acceptable.

Turton Road / Young Road

- **Young Road West:** The queues could not be verified due to camera setup angle camera set-up.

Turton Road / Lambton Road / Bridges Road

- **Lambton Road East:** The right turn queues could not be verified due to camera setup angle camera set-up.



Newcastle Indoor Sports Facility:
SIDRA Modelling Technical Note
Project: P6458 Version: 003

- **Bridges Road South:** Queue in through and right turn cannot be verified due to limitations of camera set-up
- **Lambton Road West:** Queues cannot be observed entirely from the camera