



8 November 2024

State Independent Planning Panel

Dear Sir/Madame

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE HUNTER INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE

Basketball NSW support the much-needed construction of Hunter Indoor Sports Centre (HISC).

Basketball is thriving in Australia and the Hunter region. Basketball is the number one sport in Sporting Schools in the NSW and the number 2 team sport NSW as well as in Australia.

The current stadium at Broadmeadow was built over 55 years ago and is no longer fit for purpose. The 10,000 strong cohort need and demand a facility meeting the requirements of a contemporary sport. Newcastle's ageing indoor sports facility has reached capacity and no longer meets the standards expected by today's players and communities. With more than 20 courts needed to adequately serve the lower Hunter region, a new

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Basketball NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout New South Wales and their connections to land, sea and community in which we gather, meet and play. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

indoor sports facility is essential for meeting the needs of local athletes and residents.

The HISC project is more than just a solution for Newcastle Basketball's members; it is a regional opportunity to foster community connections, increase opportunities for women's sports and disability access, and promote a healthier and more active lifestyle for all ages. The current stadium, located at Broadmeadow, must be vacated by early 2028 as part of the Broadmeadow Place redevelopment, leaving thousands of users across basketball, volleyball, pickleball, school sports, and other community groups without a place to play if no replacement facility is secured.

As a State Sporting Organisation, Basketball NSW stands with Newcastle Basketball in their journey to secure this new facility. Since 2019, extensive work has been done to explore viable sites across Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, culminating in the current proposed location as the only feasible option. An estimated \$1+ million has already been invested in planning and environmental assessments, all designed to address community needs and meet contemporary standards.

The State Significant Development Application (SSDA), submission includes over 45 expert reports prepared in collaboration with the City of Newcastle and is as such substantive in its support of the project and location.

Basketball NSW put all its support behind this project in New Lambton, which will not only see a new facility for basketball and other indoor sports being completed – the facility is further planned to be of regional significance and will act as the regional “Hunter Excellence Hub” for basketball. This will continue to build on Newcastle’s rich heritage in developing talent as well as the opportunity to re-establish elite teams playing at the highest level of the sport in Australia in the city where the National Basketball League once started. A delay to this once in life-time project which is already behind plan will see the state funding at high risk of being withdrawn which will put the whole project in jeopardy and the \$1m+ already spent going to waste.

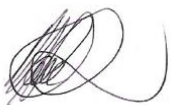
Broadmeadow will from 2028 see significant development through the Broadmeadow Places strategy which is currently in draft. This will see the precinct rezoned with major development for new housing and community services. This facility fits nicely into these plans but must be completed prior to 2028 otherwise 10,000 people + will be displaced from participating in basketball and other indoor sport.

For the Hunter Region, the HISC project represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to establish an inclusive, modern sports facility that will benefit the entire community. The facility would support increased court availability, fostering access to sport for thousands of people across the region while helping alleviate the significant shortfall in indoor sports courts.

Basketball NSW urges the State Independent Planning Panel, to support this vital project. Ensuring the future of the Hunter Indoor Sports Centre is a shared investment in the region's wellbeing, community spirit, and the development of indoor sports in New South Wales.

Finally, a project of this magnitude is a flag in the cap for Newcastle and will drive significant money to the local economy over many years. Let us all get behind it and support this project which is much needed and deserved.

Yours Sincerely,



Maria Nordstrom

Chief Executive Officer