

10th November 2024

Dear Sir / Madame,

Re: Proposed Hunter Indoor Sports Centre – ESI SSD – 65595459

I am writing to express my **opposition** to the proposed Hunter Indoor Sports Stadium, next to Lambton High School, Lambton NSW 2299. I object to this development on the Wallarah and Blackley Ovals, Lambton NSW 2299, having serious concerns of its impact on Lambton High School Students and Staff, and the Lambton residential community.

I object to the proposal for the following reasons:

1. The direct impact on the PDHPE curriculum at Lambton High School
 - Sport and PDHPE development for approximately 1,200 students (LHS is already at full capacity) will be directly impacted by the loss of these playing ovals. All Years 7 – 12 utilise these ovals for half of all practical PDHPE lessons per week.
 - A portion of the oval which may remain for use is insufficient in size, has insufficient drainage and is not level and large enough to play cricket, soccer, AFL etc.
 - Taking PDHPE to other ovals in the area is not time effective, and requires crossing of roads, additional risk planning, and additional staff to take students off school grounds (staffing levels are already stretched). Consequently, lesson times will be shortened, and safety risks increased.
 - There will be a direct reduction in the green space available to students each lunch and recess break every school day.
 - Newcastle Basketball has not communicated to the school if they can use the Centre for part of it's PDHPE curriculum and if so the cost involved and whether they would cater to the Lambton High School Timetable. There is no transparency on this matter.
 - There could be a monetary cost impact on Lambton High School Funds, and its Parents / Carers, with increased fees should the Centre be made available for PDHPE curriculum use to compensate the destruction of the ovals.
2. Health and Safety of Lambton High School Students and Staff and the Lambton community.
 - During the long construction phase of the Basketball Stadium, there would be increased dust and noise which would impact both students and staff at Lambton High School. This will impact all Departments and Faculties, by inhibiting learning and disrupting exams.
 - This proposed development is significant in size, thus directly impacts the Lambton residents.
 - Lambton High School emergency and evacuation points are directly affected should there be development on the adjacent Wallarah and Blackley Ovals.

- As a consequence of the Stadium development, there would be increased traffic in an already congested area, impacting the safety of students and staff.

3. Traffic and Congestion

- The Basketball Stadium's ultimate scope is to seat 2,400 spectators (12 courts), however the proposed car parking for that facility appears insufficient for this crowd projection.
- There would be increased parking & traffic issues in an already constrained area, with not only residential, but also Lambton High School effected. This will especially be of concern when all venues in that planned precinct are operating simultaneously, which includes the existing Newcastle McDonald Jones Stadium & Newcastle International Hockey Centre.

4. Environment and Community

- The Basketball Stadium proposed at that site would result in increase drainage and flooding issues in an already vulnerable area.
- In addition to the direct impact on our Lambton High School students and staff, there will be direct loss of amenities for Soccer and Cricket clubs.
- The proposed Basketball Stadium is estimated to be as high as 6 stories, which directly impacts the surrounding environment, including Lambton High School and neighbouring residents.

Thanking You,

Jacqui