

Hunter Indoor Sport Centre (SSD-65595459) - Objection

I wish to strongly object to the development of the Hunter Indoor Sports Centre on the site of Wallarah and Blakeley Ovals. The development is not in the public interest and is wholly inappropriate for the site for the following reasons:

- the loss of green space and community facilities;
- the existing traffic environment which is already beyond capacity during events in the area; &
- impacts on Lambton High School students, who would be significantly adversely impacted both during construction and through loss of open space used for sport and recreation.

In a city with so many brownfield sites available for re-development it is entirely inappropriate and unjustified to remove public open space for this development.

Loss of public green space

- I strongly object to the development of public green spaces for this purpose. The loss of public green space for the benefit of a specific interest group at the exclusion of all other users is not in the public interest.
- The EIS suggests that a key social mitigation for this impact is that the design *'maximises the balance of the site (over 40%) as open space that will continue to be available for use by local residents, Lambton High School and sporting clubs'* (EIS p91). The development plans include a total of 1,032m², the equivalent of a suburban housing block, as open space in the final design. This represents 1.3% of the 78,300m² site. This clearly does not mitigate for the loss of this important public green space.

Loss of facilities currently being utilised by the public, school students and sporting clubs

- More than 1,100 Lambton High School students utilise and rely on this public green space daily for sport, physical education and recreation. Removing access to this space would adversely impact the health and wellbeing of students. The applicant's suggestion that future partnerships would be developed with the Department of Education for use of the facility is not an adequate mitigation measures for this impact - any future use would only ever be on a limited access basis and no doubt require users to pay for access. Students would lose the incidental use of this valuable green space at lunch and recess which is the primary benefit to the majority of these students.
- There is a significant shortage of sporting fields available in the New Lambton area. Despite CN's statement that there is significant capacity to meet sporting needs in its portfolio of fields, this capacity clearly does not exist within the local area. With 3 children participating in local cricket and soccer clubs, it is a constant battle to access fields for training and games. Our clubs have been forced to significantly limit training access due to high demand for field space and move junior teams to parks that are not

designed or suited to being playing fields. If capacity exists within Newcastle's sporting field portfolio, it is not within the catchment area of local clubs and therefore not an appropriate mitigation for the impacts of the development.

- This shortage of field space is particularly relevant in the context of the NSW Government's urban growth strategy of 20,000 new homes in Broadmeadow over the next 30 years, increasing demand for fields in the local area. Removing field space at the same time as increasing the population and demand for these fields shows very poor planning.

Traffic and safety

- The local road network cannot sustain the additional traffic associated with the development. Turton Road is gridlocked around any event at McDonald Jones Stadium to the extent that local roads must be blocked and police and traffic controllers employed during events. The addition of traffic from the development, including the potential for queueing onto Turton Rd of vehicles trying to enter the site would exacerbate these already unacceptable impacts on a major arterial road.
- Young Road also experiences significant delays daily around school start and finish time. The development will unacceptably increase traffic on Young Road and present a safety risk to students travelling to and from school on foot or by bike.

Noise impacts for school students

- As the parent of a Lambton High School student completing years 11 and 12 in 2025/2026, I'm particularly concerned regarding the impacts of construction noise on my child's learning and assessment outcomes. Construction noise would significantly adversely impact learning for the 1,100 school students attending Lambton High, including those completing their HSC.
- The applicant's noise assessment predicts that construction noise levels would exceed construction noise management levels at Lambton High School. No specific measures to reduce noise levels have been proposed, rather, the applicant intends to rely on notifications to affected receivers and standard construction practices to manage noise impacts. No engineering solutions have been proposed or modelled undertaken to demonstrate that acceptable noise levels can be achieved for high school students. Student learning should not be compromised by this development.
- The construction noise impacts presented in the EIS are also likely to be significantly underestimated for the following reasons:
 - The acoustic model has placed noisy equipment in the centre of the site, not in worst-case locations adjacent to the northern site boundary closest to the school, where works will in fact be occurring.
 - The model appears to have assumed a very limited number of plant and equipment operating on site (refer to Table 4-1 of the Acoustic Assessment). For example, 1 truck has been assumed to be on site during the excavation phase

and zero trucks have been assumed during building phase. This is unrealistic noting the number of deliveries required for such a large construction project.

- The plant and equipment noise levels modelled by the acoustic assessment appear to be unrealistically low. For example, a typical sound power level for a concrete mixer would be 109dBA, this would increase to 112dBA when combined with a concrete pump, equating to a sound pressure level of approximately 94dBA at 10metres. This is significantly above the 67dBA modelled by the applicant.
- The applicant has not included any high noise generating construction equipment in the noise model, e.g. piling equipment, concrete saws, hand-held tampers, rock hammering or rock breaking, impact wrenches, grinding equipment, jackhammers etc.
- The assessment does not consider impulsive, intermittent, tonal or other annoying noise characteristics associated with construction that would warrant a 5dB penalty and would be particularly problematic in an educational settings where children are trying to learn or complete exams.
- Noise impacts for students would be exacerbated by the fact that many classrooms at Lambton High rely on open windows and fans for ventilation and cooling during summer.
- The EIS fails to state the duration of construction so its unclear how long these impacts would be endured.
- A revised acoustic assessment is required to identify the potential for significant noise impacts to school students at Lambton High School. The revised assessment must propose, and model the effectiveness of, meaningful noise controls to limit construction noise levels to below the construction noise management levels.