

## HUNTER INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE OBJECTION

### Loss of green space

- This proposed indoor sports centre takes away 3 ovals from the local community. I have used this green space daily throughout the year for the last 12 years
- Once green space is lost it is gone forever. Buildings are not demolished to bring in green zones but are replaced with more buildings
- I have two children who attended Lambton High school and for 9 years (2013-2022) they used this space multiple times a day for recess, lunch and HSIE (Human Society and its Environment). There is no other green space that can accommodate this without the need to cross roads which then brings in safety concerns and additional work for teachers. We want to increase access to green spaces that enable physical activity not decrease it so significantly with such a large development taking up 3 existing ovals
- This green space currently assists in heavy rainfalls by absorbing the water. Once the trees and grass have been replaced with concrete all the water over this area will become 'run off' greatly impacting on an already recognised flood zone
- This area is highly utilised by current cricket and soccer teams and by children and adults who live nearby. Removing this resource from the community will impact on children who currently walk or ride bikes to training and they are then reliant on adults to drive them elsewhere or catching public transport.
- As a bike rider the bike path is highly utilised also throughout the day – I use this path twice a day, 5 days a week and with the proposed Indoor sports centre there will be increased foot traffic across the bike path increasing hazards to both the biking community and pedestrians
- There has been no ongoing community engagement in this project

### Traffic Report

- The traffic report did not study the impact that will occur to the local streets (Monash, Young Rd, Womboin and Wallarah)
- The current impact of games at McDonald Jones stadium on the traffic affects all the Lambton area as there are limited roads leading away from the stadium. Newcastle Basketball state that the new basketball stadium will have a turn over of 500 people per hour between 4-8pm but only 220 car parks. This is clearly not sufficient.

### Flooding

*"Flooding at the Site The flood-producing weather events most-likely to affect the Site include East Coast Lows (ECL). The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) defines ECLs as being very intense low-pressure systems characteristic of the eastern coastline of Australia, occurring on average several times each year. Although they can occur at any time of the year, they are more common during autumn and winter with a maximum frequency in June. East Coast Lows will often intensify rapidly over a period of 12- 24 hours making them one of the more dangerous weather systems to affect the eastern coast."*

- And as evidenced by the maps, contained within the above assessment, this is a significant flood zone. However the report seems to concentrate on evacuation routes rather than how to reduce flooding impact by loss of green space eg retention basins.
- Local houses will be impacted by a greater amount of water not being stored and released as the current fields are able to do naturally

*“The principal risk to visitors from flooding is the potential of inundation within the car park, as it is far more likely than that of internal inundation within the building. Signage should be displayed within the car park advising of the risk of flash flooding during intense rainfall. Regular visitors to the Site should be advised to park off-site (such as on Womboin Road) or arrange alternative transport if they are concerned about the potential risk to their vehicle during periods of heavy rainfall.”*

*Pg 49 Hunter indoor Sports Centre Flood impact and Risk assessment*

- The streets around the Indoor sports centre are narrow and already utilised by local residents - this mitigation strategy to park in off site streets will add to traffic chaos, difficulty accessing homes particularly in an emergency

#### **\$90 million total cost compared to \$30million funded**

- This project is taking away three community ovals used widely by Lambton and New Lambton residents and the funding has not been raised for two-thirds of the project – it may never be completed but the current community resource (that is available for everyone not just basketball players) will be lost forever.

**Conclusion:** Newcastle Basketball requires a new building however taking away existing well utilised green space is not the best use of our community’ resources. Finding a more appropriate site that does not increase the current flooding issues, increase traffic and parking requirements in an already congested area and continues to support our young people both within the high school and the local sporting teams (that aren’t basketball) is paramount in caring for the Lambton and New Lambton communities.