

I strongly object to the Hunter Indoor Sports Centre (HISC) being located on Crown Land Wallarah and Blakely Ovals in Lambton.

First, I would like to say that I recognise that the Newcastle/ Lake Macquarie area needs an updated Basketball Stadium, and I support Community Sport and realise the value this could bring to our region. However, this is the **WRONG LOCATION** for the following reasons:

1. Impact on Lambton High School (LHS)

- a. I have 2 children currently enrolled at LHS, and another 2 at local primary schools who will attend LHS in future. As a parent I am extremely concerned about the impact on their Education and wellbeing the HISC will have, as it will take away all access to open green space. The construction noise will have impact, but the impact of such a huge building overshadowing the school and blocking their sunlight will be everlasting.
- b. The kids will not be able to easily access grass for sport, PE classes and recreation. I cannot believe that just 50 years ago a brand new High School was built without green space – the **ONLY WAY** this can ever make sense is to share green facilities with the community. And this is actually a great joint use of community open space and makes sense – except if you take it away!!
- c. It is **NOT** an acceptable alternative for them to cross the road and walk to alternative ovals down the street. This takes time out of their lessons or breaks, requires additional supervision, teachers and organisation. They will do less activity because of this!
- d. It is **NOT** an acceptable alternative to have access to the HISC even if it is free. They do not need indoor facilities or basketball courts. They already have an indoor court in the MPC (Multi-purpose centre) which can also be used for gatherings and assemblies, another smaller hall which can also be used for indoor group learning or community events, and also several undercover outdoor basketball / netball courts. The HISC provides no additional value to LHS at all, and it takes away what they do not even have of their own (green space).
- e. There is no suitable emergency evacuation area if this space is taken away. In a true emergency it would be dangerous to be trying to take 1,200+ children and staff 10 minutes walk away.
- f. The Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (page 12/13/ 14) states that in future, there will be 4.8% population increase in under 19s. Newcastle Basketball Association (NBA) has 74% of members under 19. However, it seems to be forgotten that the increased population of this age group will need to attend school rather than just play basketball. So Lambton High will be facing even larger enrolments in future. The document also states that New Lambton already has a higher proportion of High Schoolers (and couples with children) than other nearby areas right now, so it does not seem like a wise planning decision to take this space away from Lambton High School for future generations.
- g. Page 19 of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment outlines the impact of the lack of physical activity on health and wellbeing, and notes that in the 15-17 year age group for Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Care Network participation is 30% lower than the national average. The HISC will actually take away the only

regular outdoor physical activity that some of the children that attend Lambton High get (compulsory sport and PE). They seem to have been forgotten. Whilst it is a noble to want to increase community participation and activity – this location can be anywhere indoors.

- h. There are many kids that attend LHS that have also attended New Lambton Public School (NLPS) which also does not have green space. I do not believe it is acceptable for children in Newcastle to have no grass at school for their entire education K-12. If I had chosen to live in the Sydney CBD then that may be different and I would know that my children could be attending High Rise schools. Right now this decision is possibly being imposed on us without any choice.

2. Impact on other Local Sports

- a. My children play soccer for a local club Lambton Jaffas, and also netball for local club Wests League Netball Club. I moved to this area so that my kids could play in local sport teams and we could walk to training and home games. Lambton Jaffas, and other local Soccer and Cricket Clubs will be displaced.
- b. It is NOT an acceptable alternative for the Junior Development Leagues (JDL) to be relocated to Beresfield or Tarro. This is inconvenient and too far away – there would be no point in playing for a local club anymore when their grounds may be over half an hour away.
- c. I do not believe it is the right thing for one sport to take away from another. Yes, Basketball players do deserve a suitable facility to play and train. However, it can be anywhere....it should not impact other sports.
- d. The ovals already have updated facilities suitable for increased female participation.
- e. I do not believe it is true that these ovals are underutilised. I personally see individuals, groups and the school use them every day. The report that outlined that they are unused was done in 2020 – during lockdown when of course they were not able to be used! And even if it was not entirely during a lockdown period, during that time there were many social impacts and changes that kept people in their homes even if it was not lockdown. We all know it has been many years before 'return to normal'.
- f. Nearby sporting fields are also at capacity and I do not believe there is no impact from taking these ovals away. It will only increase the competition for other local ovals and lead to decreased participation in other sports.