



10 January 2025

To Whom it may concern,

RE: Mingara Recreation Club Seniors Housing, Tumby Umbi

I am writing on behalf of Little Athletics NSW (LANSW) to formally express our concerns regarding the proposed development near the Mingara Regional Athletics Facility. As a junior development organisation with 170 centres across the NSW, servicing close to 50000 members, we have close links with our communities and take pride in delivering a quality product to our athletes.

The Mingara Regional Athletics Facility plays host to the Mingara Regional Athletics Club (MRAC) who run their weekly competitions throughout the summer season. MRAC is one of the largest centres in NSW, with 600+ members in 2024/25 and continues to grow its membership each year. Not only this, being situated in a holiday destination, Mingara hosts visitors at its competitions, significantly increasing the number of attendees.

Due to this, and the growth in the sport of athletics across the state, LANSW has plans to expand its athlete, coach and official development into the region. Utilisation of Mingara Regional Athletics Facility for these future programs is very much in our strategic sights, as clinics and coaching courses held at this facility have previously been very successful.

This facility is also utilised to facilitate state endorsed meets including:

- NSW Country Championships (approx. 1000 athletes, 3000 attendees)
- NSW Zone/Regional Championships (approx. 1000 athletes)
- NSW Treloar Shield and Winter Track Finale (approx. 500 athletes each)

In addition, The Mingara Regional Athletics Facility is booked for school carnivals from the end of term 1 to the end of term 3 and has hosted the Sydney North School Sport Association Athletics Championships, the largest region in the state in recent years, attracting in excess of 3000 athletes and spectators.

LANSW have recently become aware of the proposed development of senior housing which is situated adjacent to this athletics facility. We are concerned about the potential negative impacts this proposal may have on the operation and future of the facility. Specifically:

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1. Child Safety:

MRAC hold their competition on a Friday night. Once this proposed development is complete parking will be in the Recreation Club car park. Children will need to walk across a narrow service road into the car park at night. Parents will be under increased pressure to control multiple, tired children to maintain their safety in transit to a car park where people go to consume alcohol and gamble.

2. Parking and Traffic Management:

Currently, the area of the proposed development is full of cars on a Friday night, as is the Recreation Club car park. This will pose a problem for families with young children in finding somewhere close to the facility to park. In addition, with competition finishing at approximately 9pm the flow of traffic, not only of Athletics families, but club goers and residents of the proposed housing will be extensive.

3. Impact on Major Events:

The proximity of this development to the athletics facility raises concerns about the ability to continue hosting major events. The capacity to host high-level competitions is critical for the ongoing development of athletics in the region.

4. Operational Constraints:

The size of some events hosted at Mingara creates logistical needs for deliveries, loading and unloading of equipment, and other operational requirements that ensure smooth event execution. The proposed development may impose operational restrictions that limit access and therefore the ability to utilise the facility.

In addition to the regular centre competition each week, LANSW insist our eight Region Championships are conducted on a synthetic surface each year to maintain consistency and quality of competition. Due to the shortage of synthetic athletics venues north of Sydney, Mingara has proven to be an essential element of the athletics progression system over many years.

Little Athletics NSW is strongly opposed to the proposed development of senior housing at this location due to its potential to reverse the growth experienced in our sport on the Central Coast.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Kerry Smith
Sport and Events Manager
Little Athletics NSW

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