

I OBJECT to the HISC (Hunter Indoor Sports Centre) being built on the proposed location of Wallarah and Blakely ovals because:

1. Impact to Lambton High

- a. As a concerned parent, I have 2 children currently enrolled, and will have children there until 2037.
- b. They deserve to have outside space. The crown land that was provided to the school upon building for joint school / community access is a great arrangement for the entire community. This should not be taken away for a small number of private, paying users. The school was built without it's own ovals or significant green space. It is not acceptable for students to cross a road and spend at least 10 minutes of a lesson walking to another oval, and another 10 minutes walking back again. This also creates an additional safety risk that is unnecessary, and makes it difficult for teachers and requires extra supervision. This will not just happen once a week for Wednesday Sport, only for those students that choose to play soccer or football or cricket (for example). It will happen multiple times EACH DAY for multiple PDHPE classes across different periods for many year levels.
- c. There will be nowhere suitable for fire drills or safe evacuation.
- d. The school DOES NOT need access to a Basketball Stadium. They have an indoor court already as part of their MPC (Multi-purpose Centre) as well as multiple undercover courts. The proposal offers NO benefit to students of Lambton High School.
- e. The building is overscaled, and close to the school boundary. It will block light on one side of the school. It will introduce flood and runoff risk.
- f. The long term construction in multiple proposed stages will impact the school for many years to come. Learning and peaceful environment will be lost for many years for NO LONG TERM GAIN to the school.
- g. Broadmeadow precinct has been targeted for additional housing. Where will these students attend school? It does not seem realistic that the additional population will not result in increased enrolments for the school. Lambton High is already the largest public high school (by enrolments) in the Newcastle city area. Cramming more students into a school without green space is unfair to students and not good future planning.

2. Loss of green space / Flood risk

- a. Once green space is lost, it is gone forever. We should not be building on green space. The space created as part of the proposed Broadmeadow Place Strategy is not the same as being able to use local ovals for general recreation.

- b. Open green space is important for mental health and community connection. It should be preserved.
 - c. Building on this land will increase flood risk to the nearby area.
- 3. Impact to Other Sports – Soccer, Cricket
 - a. I do not believe it is true that these ovals are under utilised. The study undertaken by Newcastle City Council (NCC) was done during a period of time impacted by covid, and so the ovals appeared less utilised.
 - b. It is not fair to displace local clubs and send them to other ovals, for example Beresfield which is at least 30 minutes away.
 - c. The ovals already have upgraded facilities, including female amenities, which are lacking at many other facilities, so these should be kept and it doesn't make sense to tear them down.
- 4. General WRONG LOCATION
 - a. If a sporting precinct is desired, then space should be made for this development WITHIN Broadmeadow place strategy, not an adjacent primarily residential area. This is in relation to the show court aspect only.
 - b. For 'everyday' activities such as regular community competitions and training, a location more central to the greater Newcastle population should be considered – and this could be further out where there is also more space like Cardiff or Glendale.
- 5. Traffic Impacts / Parking
 - a. The Parking provided is not adequate, and patrons will park in nearby streets which is unacceptable to local residents and the school community.
 - b. A single entry / exit point will create significant delays in peak times. For example, the Lake Macquarie Football Complex at Speers Point has a similar arrangement. On a Saturday morning when multiple games are held it can take 20 minutes to exit the precinct. I have personally waited this long many times.
 - c. The traffic flows are not realistic of routes that local people would actually drive. Intersections such as Wallarah and Hobart Road have not been considered, and this can already be a local bottleneck / blackspot.
 - d. Outbound south / west traffic will not turn left at Turton Road and travel down Newcastle Road and then turn left again at Croudace Road – They will circle back through Lambton via Young Road/ Wallarah / Hobart Road in order to access Russell Road via Regent Street Traffic Light (if wanting to turn right on Russel Road) or via a left turn at the General Roberts Hotel, crossing over Lambton Road (another black spot area that does not need any more traffic!) into Royal Place / Royal Street / St James Road before being about to turn right towards Kotara on B63 Turton Road.
- 6. Design and Cost Considerations

- a. The design is oversized and not suited to a residential location and next to a High School.
- b. The Project does not have the funds required, and may never receive them.
- c. Even at full capacity (if all stages are even able to be funded) this is not enough courts to support growth in Basketball or the Newcastle population. So this is not a suitable long term location anyway.

7. Lack of Consultation

- a. As a Lambton High parent, it is unacceptable that there was one meeting early in 2024 about this to 'tell us how great it would be for the school' and I was present and did not hear any benefits. No further effort was made to engage the school community.
- b. The Consultation sessions for the general community was short notice and at inconvenient times. Appropriate people were not there to answer technical questions.