

Submission **OPPOSING** the development of the Hunter Indoor Sports Stadium on Wallarah and Blackley Ovals (SSD-65595459)

I am strongly opposed to the development of a basketball stadium on this site, for three principal reasons.

1. Loss of green space.
2. Significant negative impacts on traffic and parking.
3. Unfairness to existing users of the site.

Loss of Green Space

Green space in an urban environment is precious. Once taken away, it is gone forever. A process of continually chipping away at green space, will gradually turn a pleasant locality into a concrete jungle. With the Broadmeadow Place Strategy planning to house an additional 40,000 residents, this area will need *more* sporting fields and open space, not *less*. It is extremely short-term thinking to remove actively used green space. We need to be making decisions today that are mindful of the impact on future generations.

Traffic and Parking

Under present conditions, when there is a capacity crowd for a Knights game at Hunter Stadium, parking spots fill up in surrounding streets as far away as Lambton Park. When street parking is filled to capacity, the narrow roads in East Lambton get clogged by traffic circling around looking for non-existent parking spots, leading to many instances of illegal and unsafe parking. If there were to be a major event at the proposed basketball stadium at the same time as a major event at Hunter Stadium, this situation would be significantly worse and have a major negative impact on local residents.

Unfairness

The NSW State Government has provided land for the Newcastle Basketball stadium for the past 55 years. Now the Government is essentially evicting the basketball association, depriving them of land, telling them to go and appropriate other land, depriving other sporting users of their facilities. It's a clear case of kicking the unfortunate beneath you. The result is that at the top end the state government makes millions of dollars selling land to property developers, while at the bottom end mums and dads and kids lose their local sporting fields and have to drive miles to use alternative facilities.

If the State Government is to evict Newcastle Basketball from their current location, they should do the honourable thing and provide an alternative location that does not deprive innocent third parties of their amenities.

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