

Hunter Indoor Sports Centre – Project Update

August 2025





Overview

- The Hunter Indoor Sports Centre will deliver
 - state of the art multi-purpose indoor sports courts;
 - gym/movement studio, multi-purpose function rooms;
 - allied health suites; cafe, social spaces; and
 - change rooms; spectator seating and car parking.
- Co-located with the visionary Hunter Park Precinct, the project will deliver crucial indoor sport infrastructure to serve the Lower Hunter as well as providing an excellence hub for the Hunter Region.
- The design vision for the Hunter Indoor Sports Centre is for a multifaceted sports hub that serves the whole community.
- All facilities are fully accessible and inclusive for all users regardless of age or ability. Courts will be marked and fitted out for multiple sports including basketball, netball, volleyball, pickle ball, badminton and futsal.

The Need



- The driving project needs are to
 - Replace an ageing stadium that no longer meets contemporary standards
 - Address the short fall in indoor court provision across the Lower Hunter
 - **As an enabler and supporting project for the Broadmeadow Place Strategy**



The Need



• Justification

- Over 500 players turned away each season
- Population growth - potential for over 10,000 members
- Shortfall of 20+ courts in the Lower Hunter
- State and national events
- Insufficient venue capacity results in substantial unmet demand and lower participation in indoor sport in the Lower Hunter
- The lack of suitable indoor sports facilities negatively affects the health and wellbeing of residents and economic productivity in the Lower Hunter
- The existing venue is 55 years old which is well past its useful life
- Athlete development opportunities will be increased
- A new venue creates the opportunity to host mass participation sport and other events in the region
- The new venue will contribute to increased community connectedness and social cohesion



The Objectives

- To facilitate improved health outcomes, economic opportunity and social and community inclusion:
 - particularly for people with a disability, culturally diverse communities and women and girls.
- To address a priority regional need by increasing the supply of indoor courts to address part of the identified shortage of court availability in the region

The Objectives

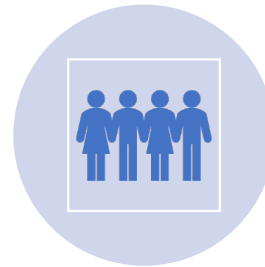


- Create a regional quality facility to:
 - Improve user experience and address functional and quality issues of the current facility;
 - Enable major regional events and representative games to be held in the region;
 - Complement high profile basketball spectator facilities to be provided in Hunter Park;
 - Provide athlete development and training opportunities and pathways;
 - Complement and leverage existing and planned sport facilities in and around the Hunter Park Precinct; and
 - Provide multi-sport courts for other indoor sports and spaces for community and partner events.

Project Benefits



Increasing economic opportunity, health and economic productivity



Increasing social inclusion and community connectedness



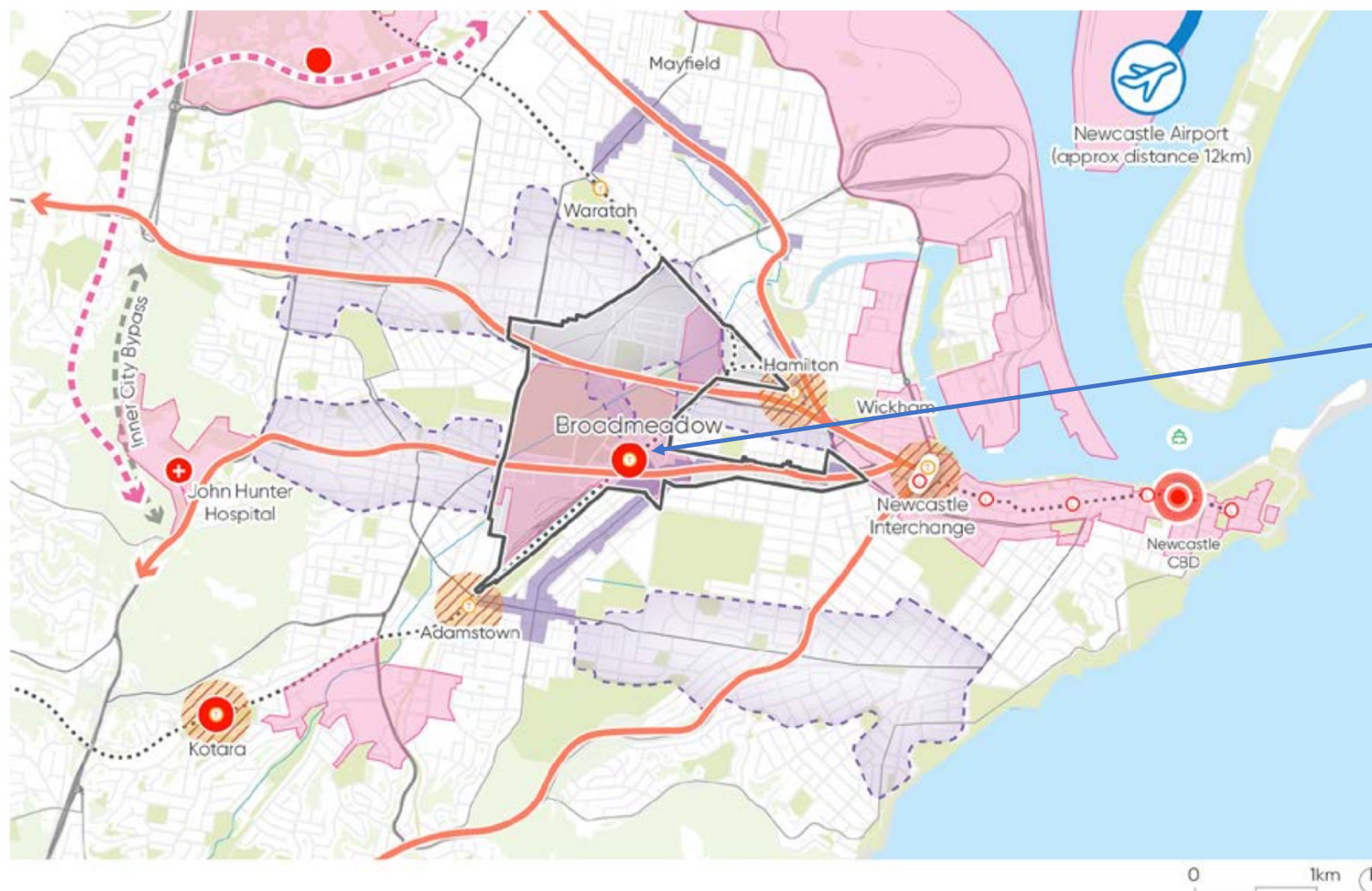
Increasing visitor / tourist and resident expenditure



Construction and ongoing employment benefits

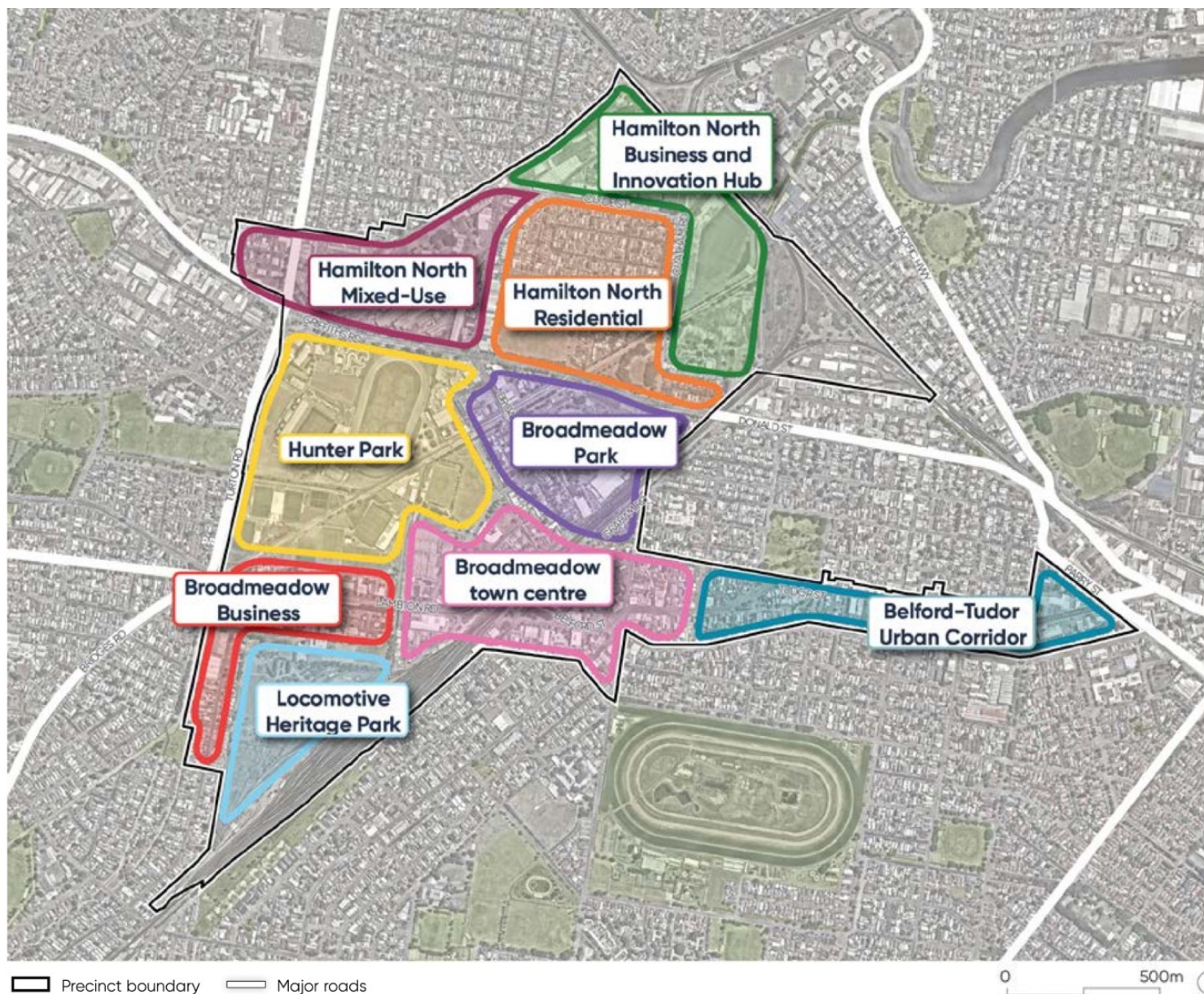


Broadmeadow Precinct



- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Precinct boundary | Health precinct | Urban renewal corridor (stage 1) | Transit Oriented Development (TOD) area |
| Metropolitan city | Railway lines | Indicative Urban renewal corridor (stage 2) | Priority multi-modal corridor |
| Strategic centre | Light rail line | Catalyst area | Corridor Investigation |

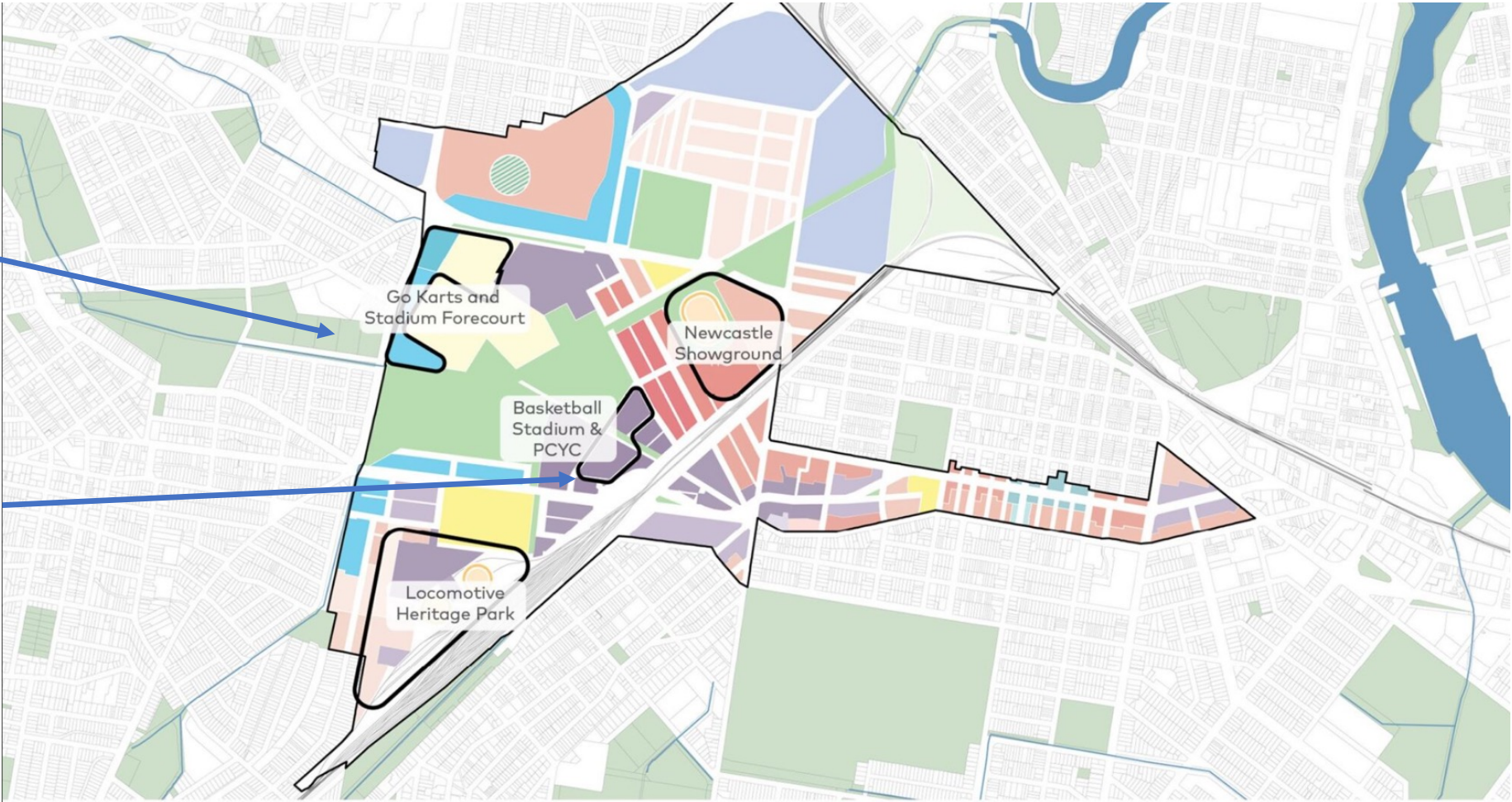
Broadmeadow Place Strategy – focus areas



**Broadmeadow
Place Strategy
Rezoning**

Proposed
HISC Site

Current
Newcastle
Basketball
Stadium Site -
‘first mover site’
rezoned August
2025

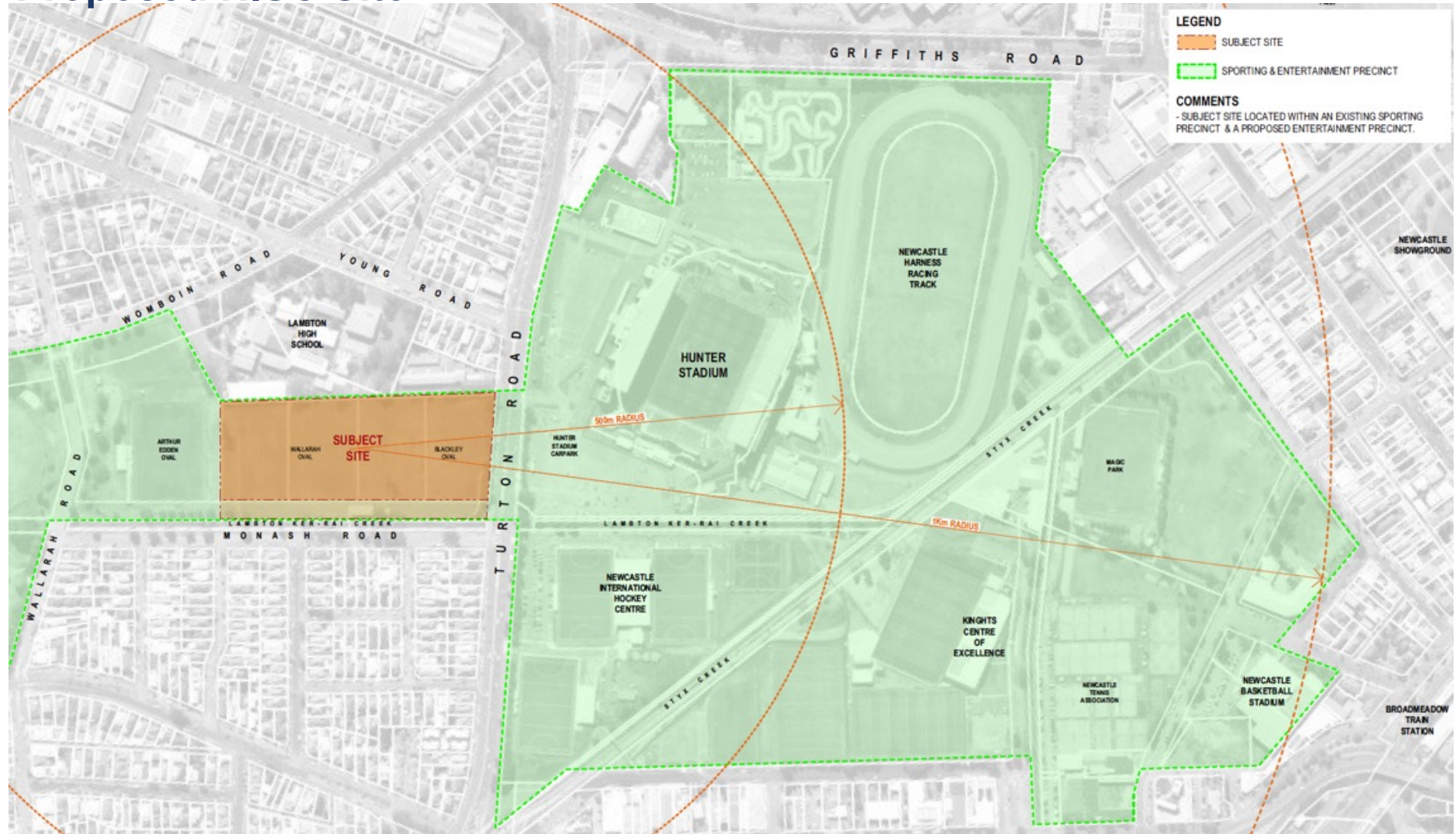


Precinct boundary	Residential 1:1	Mixed use 1.7:1	Commercial 3:1	Employment/urban services 1.5:1
Residential 0.4:1	Residential 1.5:1	Mixed use 2:1	Local centre 1.5:1	Woodville Junction green space
Residential 0.6:1	Residential 2:1	Mixed use 2.7:1	Local centre 2:1	Stadium and Multi-Purpose Indoor Arena/Indoor recreation
Residential 0.7:1	Residential 2.3:1	Mixed use 3:1	Green space	
Residential 0.75:1	Residential 2.8:1	Mixed use 4:1	Existing school	
Residential 0.9:1	Residential 3.6:1	Commercial 2:1		



Broadmeadow Precinct Indicative Proposed Development Aerial Render (source: NSW Government)

Proposed HISC Site



HISC External Render

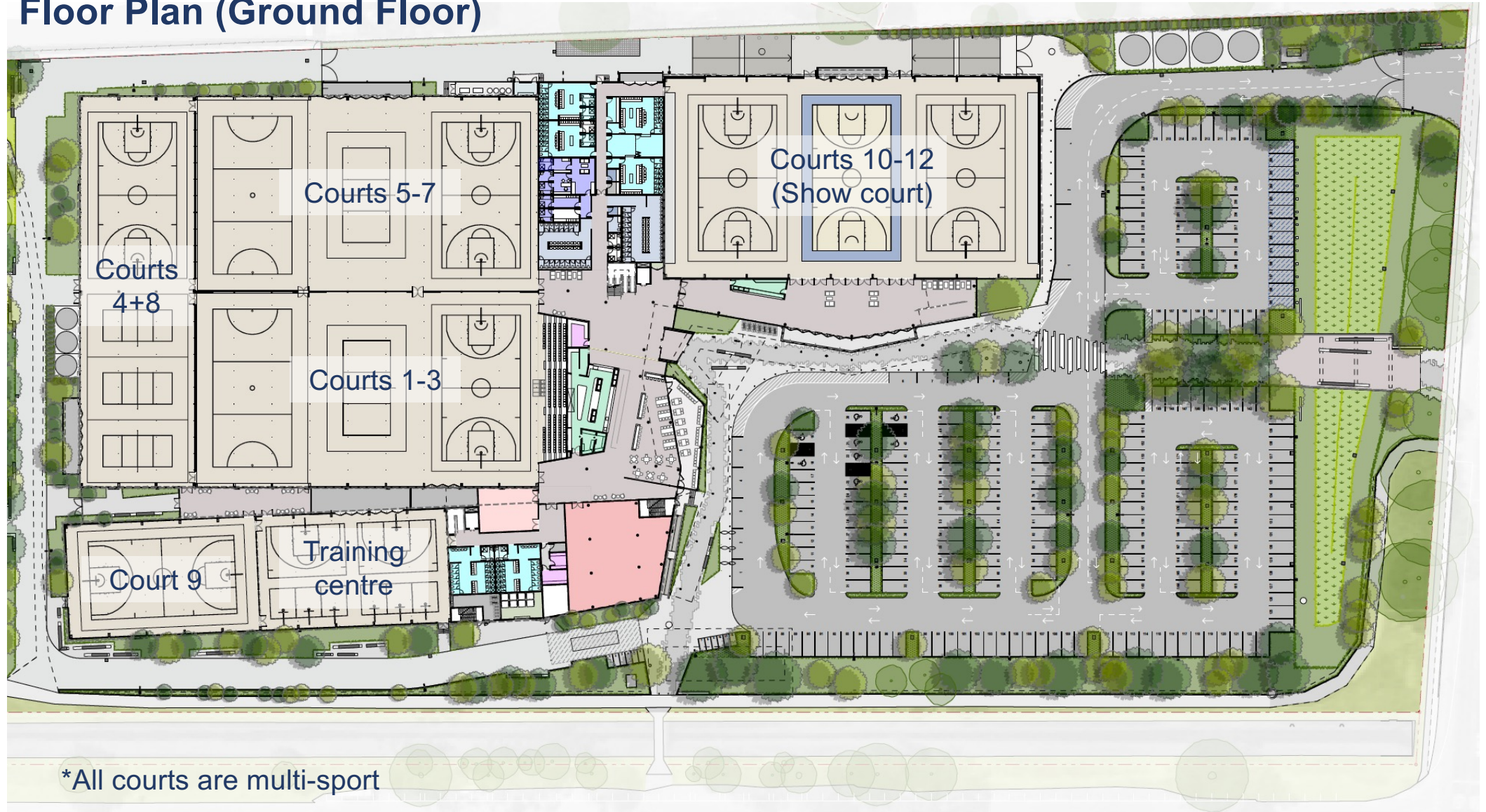


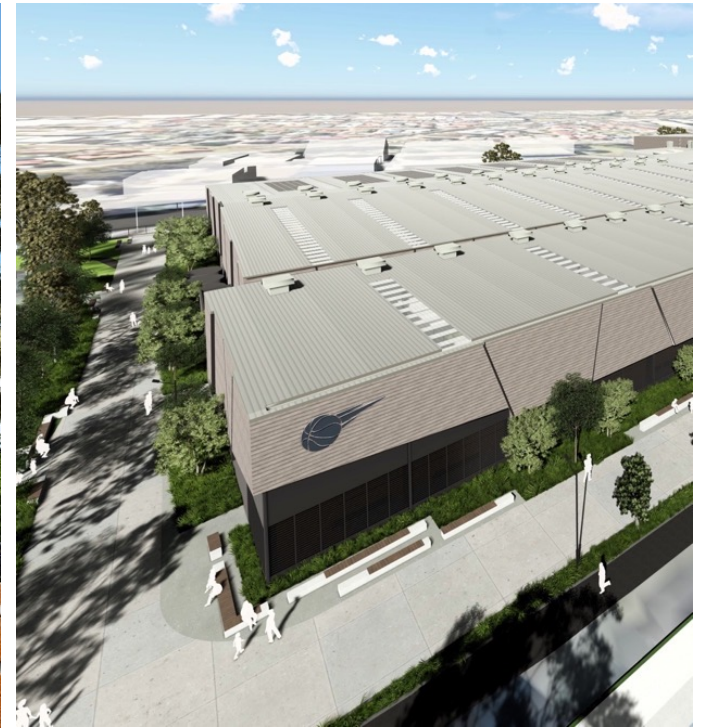
Functional Features – Full Development



- Show court module – includes retractable seating so that in normal use it contains 3 courts but in ‘show mode’ can hold approximately 2,400 spectators and includes a function room overlooking the main court.
- High Performance module – includes one standard court and one training and performance hub that will include a range of specific training and performance and analytical equipment to help all athletes reach their optimum levels.
- Community court modules:
 - Two 3 court sports halls enables connectedness yet separation of activities, each big enough to accommodate full sized international futsal and/indoor hockey courts for tournament play; and
 - One two court hall provide a separate training and competition space for an alternative activity, it also provides an opportunity for specific group users (eg, school, community service providers) to utilise a secure space.
- Allied health hub – will be available to service providers that support and complement the core functions of the centre, connecting community health as well as athlete development.
- Administration spaces (upstairs) – provide accommodation for Newcastle Basketball, Basketball NSW, Volleyball, Hunter Academy of Sport and for future WNBL/NBL teams (potentially other partner sports).
- Studios and rooms – combined provide a multi-functional suite of spaces that can cater for fitness, physical conditioning and testing, education, meetings, functions and events.

Floor Plan (Ground Floor)





Design Images







Courts 1-3

Development Planning and Assessment



- A state significant development application (SSDA) for HISC was placed on exhibition from mid October to mid November 2024.
- The project team has engaged with government agencies to address matters raised with key issues being related flooding and traffic management (see next page).
- Other issues raised have been resolved:
 - Land claim – a land claim for the site was refused in June 2025; and
 - Site selection – an independent organisational review of the City of Newcastle revealed no concerns with the site selection process.
- A formal 'response to submissions' has been submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Project Changes to Address Submissions



- **Building and Carpark Relocation**

- The building footprint and carpark was moved 19.5 metres west, providing a grassed swale near Turton Road. This area will **manage drainage and on-site flooding** and provide a green buffer between the street and the development.

- **Pedestrian Arrival**

- A pedestrian path, including a bridge over the open space, will offer a clear route from Turton Road to the building entrance.

- **Access Driveway Adjustment**

- The driveway will be moved south to reduce potential vehicle conflicts.

- **Building Height and Internal Reconfigurations**

- The height at the south-eastern corner of the building will be increased to accommodate activities like gymnastics.
- Minor internal changes will fit the revised footprint.

- **Building Façade Refinement**

- The façade design has been refined, featuring cladding with breaks reminiscent of fractured sandstone and glazing to modulate the building mass.

- **Public Domain Enhancements**

- Improvements include widening the Turton Road footpath, adding pedestrian safety fencing, and retaining the existing cycle/pathway at the south-eastern corner. Four trees on Turton Road, previously identified for removal, will now be retained.

- **Southern Edge Landscaping**

- Landscaping elements have been removed to allow space for future pedestrian/cycleway expansion, aligning with the City of Newcastle's strategic vision for the precinct.

- **Consolidated staging**

- Development consent is sought for the entire proposal, with the flexibility to deliver the project in two construction and operational stages.



Planning Assessment Process

August 2025

Response to
submissions 1

Close mid Sep 2025

Re-notification

Response to
submissions 2

Planning
Determination

IPC Process

- Call for public submissions
- Stakeholder engagement (briefings)
- Site inspection
- Public meeting
- Determination

Referral to
Independent
Planning
Commission

Anticipated Early 2026



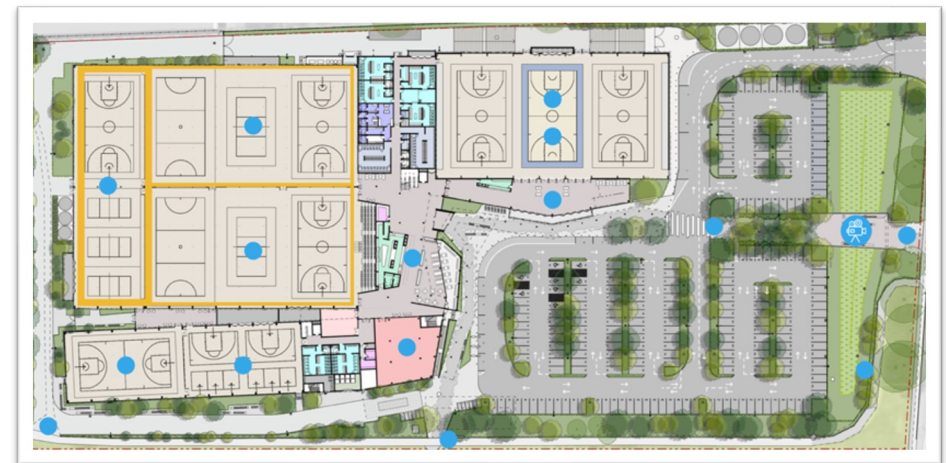
Partner and Stakeholder Engagement



Up coming engagement will include:

- Local community;
- Local, State and Federal and politicians, and key ministers;
- Newcastle Basketball and other sport members;
- Project Partners; and
- Government agencies.

Interactive Venue Plan



<https://view.genially.com/6875f6e509b515e1a76bd11a/guide-hunter-indoor-sports-centre>

