

Newcastle Knights Centre of Excellence

Lambton, NSW

Client: Newcastle Knights

Budget: Approx \$20 million

Role: Principal Design Consultant

Type: High Performance Rugby League Training Facility

Located in the heart of the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct at District Park, Broadmeadow Newcastle. The development is a cutting-edge training facility, a home ground for the Newcastle Knights rugby league team and a communal gathering place for the whole community. Importantly, the project supported the revitalisation of District Park in Broadmeadow offering public sporting fields and amenities.

The project consists of three full size training fields with one of the fields being an exact replica of the McDonald Jones Stadium playing field to all the Knights to replicate playing on the home ground for NRL matches. A prominent feature of the project is the single storey building housing a variety of athlete training and rehabilitation facilities. This building is designed with functionality and efficiency in mind, ensuring optimal space allocation for different training areas, equipment storage, and specialised facilities like gyms, physiotherapy rooms, and recovery spaces.

Player-focused facilities include a gym, identical male and female change rooms, a 15-metre lap pool with hot and cold plunge pools, a dedicated player lounge and separate dining area and a fully equipped physiotherapy clinic. Large enough to accommodate full squad training at one time, the high performance gym features dedicated weight training facilities, a 40m sprint track, full-size padded wrestling room, and a large renlita door to allow for indoor/outdoor use.

The facility pays tribute to the all-time great players with the inclusion of a grand foyer entrance featuring past grand final trophies. Administration and support services are accommodated including offices, meeting rooms, locker rooms, player lounges, and facilities for coaching staff, management, and other personnel. A digitally enabled space celebrates the sporting history of Newcastle and the Hunter featuring an outdoor terrace and a 50-seat Theatrette for players, coaches, and community use, making it an optimal space for events

