



BELROSE BOWLING CLUB LIMITED

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Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

20TH February 2009

Dear Commissioners,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

The Belrose Bowling Club LTD is a non-proprietary Club and is located on the northern side of Sydney within the Manly Warringah area. The Club was established in 1955. The Belrose Bowling Club exists for the purpose of promoting the game of Lawn Bowls and such other sports, games, amusements, entertainments, pastimes and recreations both indoor and outdoor as the Club deem expedient. The Club has 6 sub clubs comprising Women's Bowling, Men's Bowling, Touring Bowlers, Snooker, Golf and Country Music.

Our membership currently stands at 2,400 and provides facilities and events for members and guests as follows :

- Bowling Greens (x3)
- Gaming machines
- Restaurant
- Keno
- Snooker room
- Function rooms (4)

Belrose Bowling Club currently employs 16 staff, 4 full time, 2 Part time and 10 casuals. Revenues for the 2007/08 financial year were \$2,081,409 resulting in a modest operating profit of \$156,339. This result amounts to a decrease of 16.3% from the previous financial year and is the 4th consecutive year of declining profits. During this year revenues generated from poker machines amounted to 49.4% of total revenues. Other forms of revenue generated from bar, restaurant and sundry income accounted for 50.6%. Total taxes on poker machine revenues amounted to \$140,866 in the 2007/08 financial year. I wish to also inform the Commission that while our dependence on gaming now accounts for 49.4% of revenues it is down from approximately 63% some years ago. While the Board took the decision to reduce reliance on poker machine revenues for a number of reasons, it has resulted in the declining revenue base that we have to-day. A further decline in our poker machine revenues would most certainly result in the shedding of employees and the reduction or abolition of cash and in-kind donations to local sporting clubs and community organisations. The Board has no plans to return to the 63% dependency days and therefore it is imperative we maintain the current levels. Poker machine revenue is an important income stream that has allowed Belrose Bowling club to provide its members with the opportunity to play an active sport and for all of our community organisations including church groups and schools to have a modern facility at their disposal, free of charge. While Belrose is not a large club by State standards it is a very important part of our local community.

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For over 54 years the Belrose Bowling Club has played a major roll within the community of Belrose and surrounding suburbs. This Club provides both financial support and donations in-kind to two district football clubs, the Wakehurst Soccer Club and the Belrose Rugby League Football Club. In addition to this, Belrose Bowling Club provides meeting and function rooms free of charge to the following community organisations. Without this support these organisations in our local community would struggle to exist.

- Frenchs Forest Lions Club
- The Probus Club of Belrose
- Belrose Rotary Club
- Belrose Toastmasters
- Ladies Probus Club of Belrose
- Belrose Davidson Apex Club
- Davidson Softball Club
- Forestville V.I.E.W Club
- Warringah V.I.E.W Club
- Warringah Boat Club
- Australian Support Dogs Inc.
- Radio Northern Beaches
- Arlberg Ski Club
- Forest Toastmasters
- Kuring-gai Mini Wheels Club
- Manly Warringah Cricket Association

The Belrose Bowling Club also makes available its function rooms to all local churches and school's free of charge for their fund raising activities. In keeping with the Club's community spirit, the Belrose Bowling Club built a radio station on its premises to accommodate Radio Northern Beaches at a cost of \$110,000. Our agreement with the local community radio station provides this facility rent free.

Our Club is proud of its commitment to the delivery of gaming services. All employees and Directors associated with gaming have for many years undertaken and successfully completed the "Responsible Conduct of Gaming Certificate". Additionally, the Club is a member of club Safe and fully supports all of their initiatives.

Yours faithfully,



John M Gibb

Chairman