

# Productivity Commission Inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industry

Submission prepared by the  
**Palmerston Sports Club Incorporated**  
3 Maluka Street. Palmerston Northern Territory 0830

**March 2009**

## **Palmerston City – Northern Territory**

Palmerston, in the Northern Territory, is located 21km south of Darwin. The City was developed in the 1980s and has been one of Australia's fastest growing areas. Palmerston was declared a city on 2 August 2000.

With an average age of 28, Palmerston's 25,000 population is primarily made up of families. Around 30 per cent of the population is under 15 years old.

The City Centre has two major shopping complexes (including the Territory's only Target store), various sporting clubs, restaurants, pubs, skatepark, cinema and smaller shops.

The City itself has 10 suburbs currently developed (or being developed) - Driver, Gray, Woodroffe, Moulden, Durack, Farrar, Gunn, Rosebery, Bakewell, and Marlow Lagoon. Other areas are slated for development as the population grows.

Although Palmerston is mainly residential, it also has two light industrial areas - Pinelands and Yarrowonga.

Palmerston's annual rate of population growth has been estimated at 5.8% between 2001 and 2006, with the population expected to grow by up to 16 000 people over the next ten to fifteen years, to reach almost 40 000 people.

## **The Palmerston Sports Club**

The Palmerston Sports Club Incorporated was formed in 1998 and commenced trading in July 1999.

The Club was formed by four (4) Peak Sporting Associations:-

- The Darwin Turf Club Inc.
- Northern Territory Rugby Union Inc.
- Northern Territory Rugby League Inc.
- Combined Northern Territory Speedway Inc.

The objectives for which the Association is established are:

- To promote and facilitate sport in the Northern Territory.
- To promote the use of such club by sporting and other bodies and members of the general public.
- To carry out all such other activities as are incidental or ancillary to the above objectives as the Association may from time to time determine, with emphasis on such activities as shall be productive of maximum benefit to the community.

## **Club Membership**

Membership at the end of June 2008 was **16,855** with **193,620** recorded member attendances, **25,704** member's guests and **8,117** visitors utilising the Club's facilities.

With the population of our Palmerston Community estimated at 25,000 our membership represents 68% of the population.

## **Club Governance Structure**

### **Executive Committee**

Executive Committee comprises a representative of each of the Foundation Sporting Associations.

### **Board of Management**

The Board of Management comprises four persons who are appointed by the Executive Committee. The board members are selected for the business acumen, standing in the Community and as independent directors from the Foundation Sporting Associations.

## **Employee's**

The Clubs direct labour force numbers fifty six (56) employees, with a further fourteen (14) providing contract labour services (Security and Catering).

For the last financial year direct payroll costs was greater than \$ 2.5m with contracted services accounting for a further wage contribution estimated conservatively at \$ 750,000.

## **Clubs Services and amenities**

The Palmerston Sports Club offer's our members and the larger community services and amenities in their community for which they would otherwise need to travel to Darwin.

Open 7 days per week our facilities and amenities include:-

- 3 bars
- 250 seat bistro dining
- 3 function rooms
- Members bottle shop
- 45 Gaming Machines

## **Community Contributions**

### **Social Contribution**

The significance of our social contribution can be measured by the participation (68%) of the population holding memberships.

Through our provision of live entertainment, bistro dining, function facilities and bars we form an important fabric of the communities social interaction and participation.

## Financial Contributions

The importance of the Palmerston Sports Club Inc. to the Northern Territory Sporting Community is significant over the past 9 years, with **\$ 1,363m** being distributed to the Foundation Sporting Associations for the development and betterment of their respective sports.

- Northern Rugby Union Incorporated \$ 340,968
- Darwin Turf Club Incorporated \$ 340,968
- Northern Territory Rugby League Incorporated \$ 340,968
- Combined NT Speedway Incorporated \$ 340,968

In the past three financial years significant contributions benefiting the cultural, ethnic, religious, sporting, academic, pursuits within our community:-

- Charitable \$ 233,000
- Welfare, Safety, Social \$ 139,000
- Sport \$ 302,000
- Community infrastructure \$ 106,000

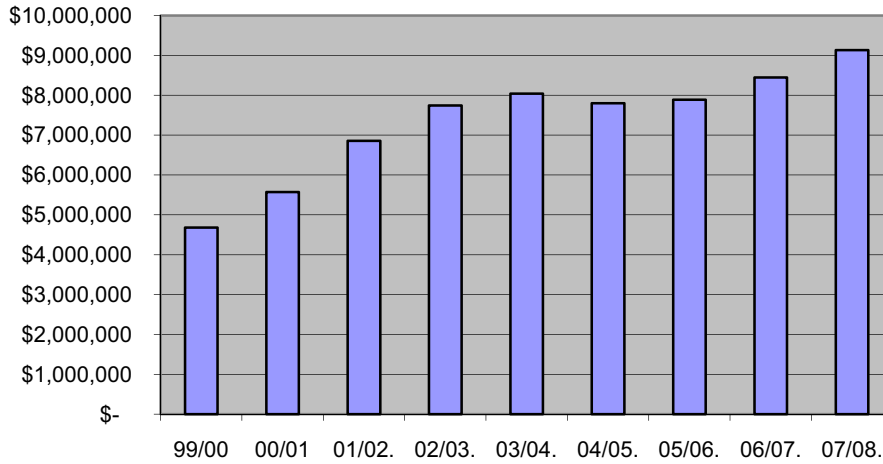
## Economic contribution

The direct economic community benefit derived from the Club's operations includes:-

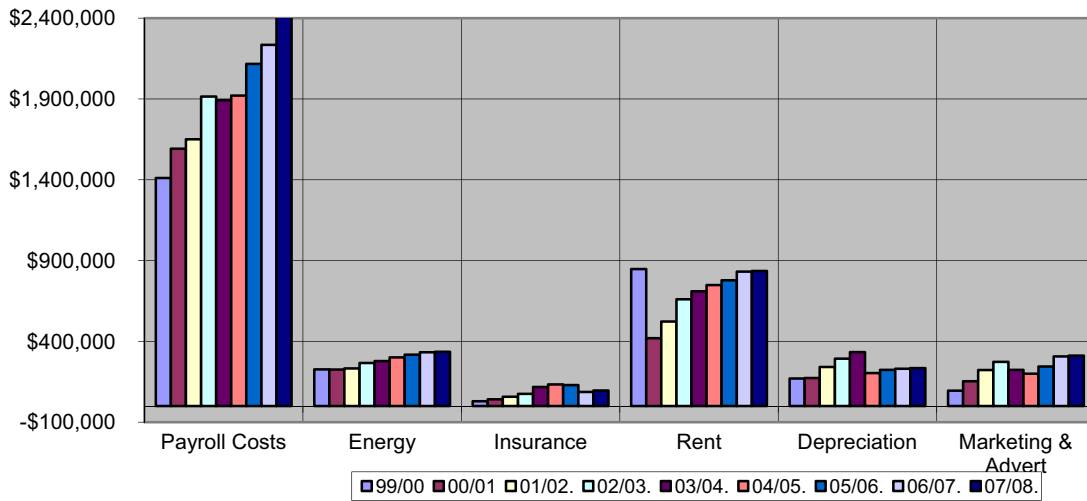
- Gaming Taxation \$ 17,975m
- Payroll Expenses \$ 17,514m
- Other Operating Expenses \$ 23,089m
- Property \$ 2,622m  
Improvements & assets

## **Financial Snap Shot(s)**

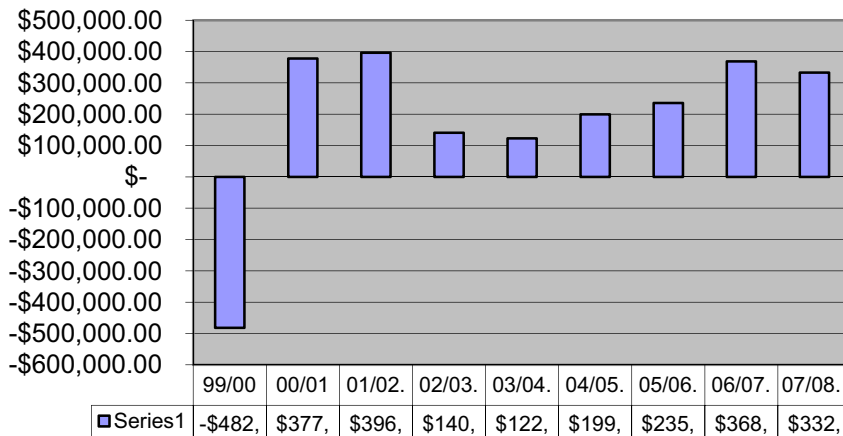
### Total Income



### Significant Expense's analysis 1999-2008



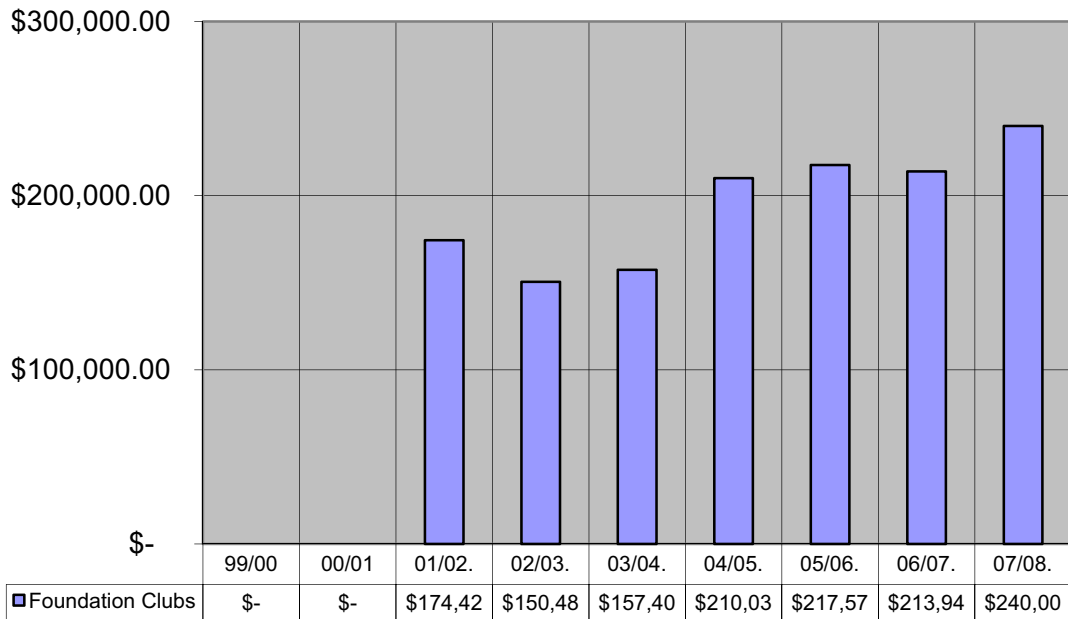
### Net Trading



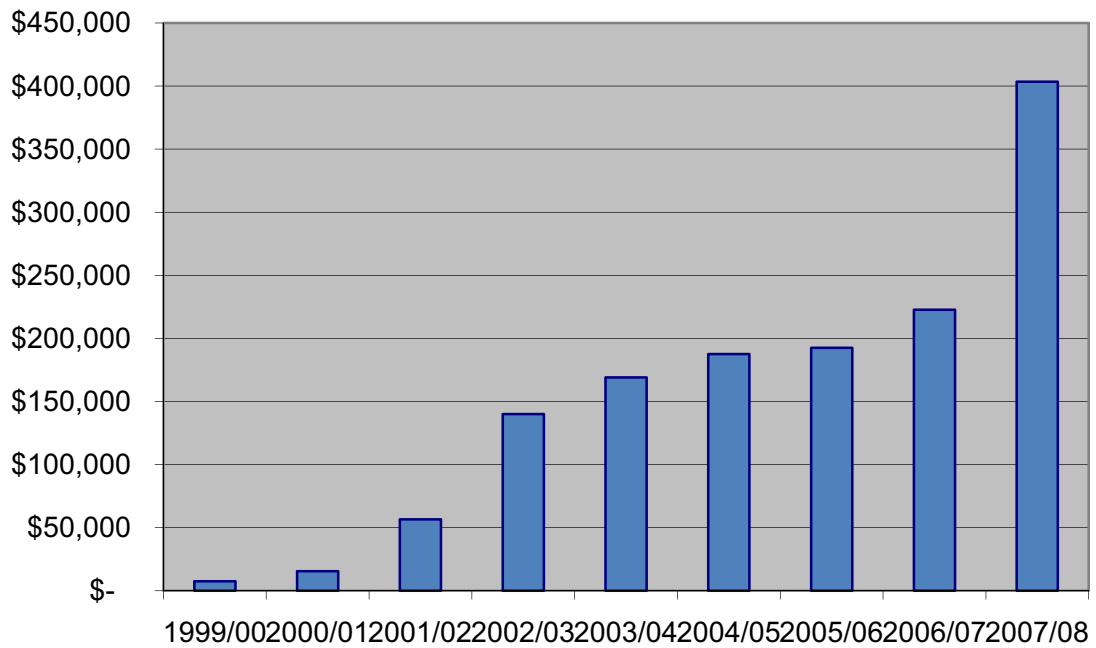
### Foundation Clubs

Profit distribution to the Foundation Clubs

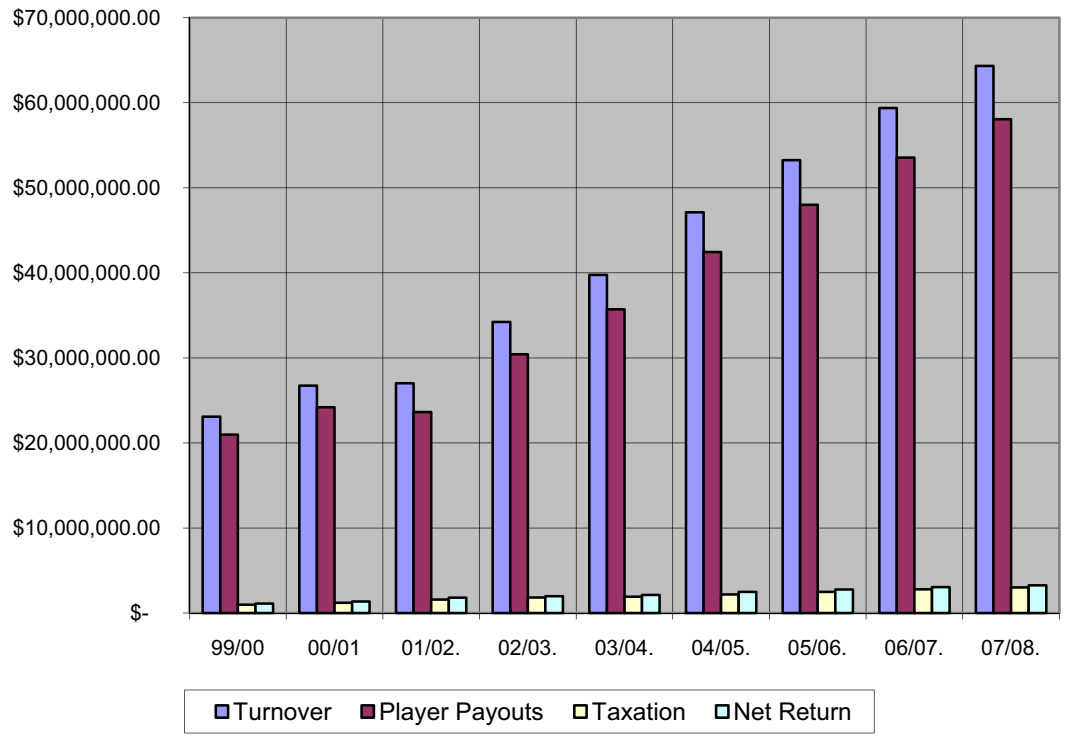
### Foundation Clubs



### **Community Benefit Funding**



### **Gaming 1999 - 2008**







# NORTHERN TERRITORY RUGBY LEAGUE Inc.



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The Northern Territory Rugby League is the administrative and operational arm of the Australian Rugby League in the NT. Operating out of Darwin and Alice Springs with a full time staff of 4 and 2 part time, our aim is to promote a healthy lifestyle, reduce obesity and enjoy sport played in the correct manner.

The Northern Territory is an area of 1,349,129 sq kilometres with a population of 207,000 and we endeavour to spread the healthy lifestyle message across this enormous land with the limited resources we have. Since inception as an organised sport in 1950, many aspiring Rugby League greats have participated in our great game.

The NTRL is proud of its many achievements over this past 60 years and the highlights package is bursting at the seams. Some of our more recent successes include victories in Pool "B" Under 18 National Championships, Affiliated States Championships and runners up in the Under 15 Championships.

Some outstanding talent has progressed onto the National stage. Players like Frank Stokes, Duncan MacGilvray, Will Chambers and James McManus have all recently starred in NRL Competitions and the current crop of young talented athletes is outstanding.

We have now entered Under 16 and Under 18 teams in National Competitions against all comers for the first time and our players are excited by the challenges that lay ahead. These young men are the first of their kind and as such find themselves as role models to other young men.

The support of the Palmerston Sports Club has been outstanding throughout our partnership with them. It is patently obvious that without their support none of the abovementioned facts would have occurred. For example, the monies they provided have enabled us to enter teams in the National Age Competitions thus giving talented players an opportunity to appear at the highest level.

We also utilise funds provided by the Palmerston Sports Club in many other ways. They sponsor our junior players in a variety of guises i.e. in the school system donating player strips, shade structures for our Junior League, training equipment and protective equipment.

Without doubt, the relationship we enjoy with the Palmerston Sports Club is vital to the very existence of Rugby League in The Northern Territory.

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