



Submission to the Productivity
Commission
Regarding the
Inquiry into Australia's Gambling
Industry

Written by

Mr. President Allan Gow

On behalf of

Riverina Australian Football Club

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General Information and Background

The Riverina Australian Football Club was first opened in 1973, and was founded to assist with the propagation of Australian Football in the Wagga Wagga area and the Riverina as a whole.

The Rules Club was also formed to provide likeminded people (members) a social and sporting Club with all the amenities of a Club including bars, meals, entertainment and the provision of sporting, musical and educational activities.

The Rules Club Wagga draws its 15000 members from the City of Wagga Wagga and surrounding towns. Wagga Wagga is a relatively strong city which is supported by an army base (Kapooka), an air force base (Forrest Hill), as well as a university (Charles Sturt), some light industry and a strong agricultural trade.

Although all these industries combine to strengthen the city, Wagga Wagga is suffering the effects of the almost decade long drought that has effected most of Australia.

Facilities and Internal Benefits

Facilities- Ultra modern gaming room consisting of 142 EGM'S, TAB, Keno, Café, Sports Bar, Modern car parking, Modern bars, Outdoor smoking areas, Lounge areas, Foxtel, Catering, Function and Seminar facilities, Football Oval, 2 x Bowling Greens and Cricket Nets.

Events- APL Poker Tuesday nights – Bingo Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – Alphy (letter game) Tuesday and Thursday – Raffles Wednesday, Friday and Saturday – Live Entertainment Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Internal Clubs - Bowling Club (240 members), Women's Bowling Club (80 members), an Indoor Bowls Club (30 members), an Anglers Club (40 members) as well as a variety of card and dance groups.

Employment and Training

Rules Club Wagga currently employs 49 staff members (10 full time and 39 casual), this excludes caterers and cleaners.

Our Clubs employment policy is to engage staff that have the Responsible Conduct of Gaming and Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificates. Staff members are also trained in First Aid, Armed Robbery Prevention as well as additional customer service and hospitality training.

Responsible Conduct of Gaming

The Rules Club takes our commitment to the responsible provision of gambling services seriously, and are associated with three agents:

ClubSAFE: As a ClubSAFE venue the Rules Club Wagga supports the provisions of a responsible gambling environment for all patron's and makes available Self Exclusion Documents at patron's request.

Best Bet: The Rules Club Wagga provides financial aid to support Best Bets to counsel people with gambling problems and also people who are affected by problem gambling.

Mission Australia: Our Club is in agreement with Mission Australia to help fund two projects, "The Financial Counseling and Literacy Program" and the "Indigenous Awareness Initiative Program". These programs work to restore the lives of people who have been affected by problem gambling.

Community Benefits

It should be noted that the Rules Club also plays a major role in benefiting and supporting most charitable organizations and sporting bodies in the area, including sports as diverse as horse racing, softball, all football codes and archery. In fact there would be very few charitable organizations or sports played in the Wagga Wagga area that are not supported by the Rules Club in some way.

Recent recipients include

Here are some examples of the different charitable and sporting organizations that the Rules Club has contributed funds to over the 2007 / 2008 financial year totaling \$195,579.55.

- *Wagga Wagga Country Club
- *Wagga Wagga Harness Club
- *Holy Trinity Primary School
- *Linden Place Inc
- *Northcott Disability Services
- *Sydney Swans Supporters
- *Riverina Warriors Youth & Sport
- *RAFC Women's Bowling Club
- *TAFE Hospitality
- *Henschke Primary School
- *The Haven
- *M V AFA
- *Zone 8 Bowls
- *RAFC Bowling Club
- *Kapooka Golf Club
- *RAFC Bowling Club
- *RAFC Bowling Club
- *Aust. Drug Foundation
- *South Wagga Public School
- *Zone 8 Bowls
- *RAFC Bowls
- *Darts Association
- *RAFC Women's Bowling Club
- *Coolamon Shire
- *Blu J's Softball
- *Ronald McDonald House
- *Gymnastics Reps
- *Muscular Dystrophy
- *Wagga Wagga Little Athletics
- *RAFC Bowling Club
- *Sth City Rugby League
- *Turvey Park Softball Club
- *RAFC Darts Team
- *MTC – 100 Club
- *C. Pomeroy - Gymnastics
- *Wagga Wagga United Soccer
- *South Wagga Cricket Club
- *Zone 8 Bowling Association
- *RAFC Social Club
- *Kurrajong Waratah – Chris spec
- *Mission Australia
- *WW Family Support
- *Carlton Blues Social Club
- *Wagga Wagga Breast Cancer group
- *Turvey Park Junior AFL
- *RAFC Bowling Club
- *Ashmont Schools Breakfast
- *Mission Australia
- *Riverina Rollers (Bowls)
- *Wagga Leagues Slimmer's
- *RAFC Bowling Club
- *Zone 8 Bowls
- *Eastern Hawks AFC
- *Rotary Club South Wagga (Golf Day)
- *WW Cycle Club
- *Cancer Council

- *Toy Run
- *Leukaemia Foundation
- *The Rock Show Festival
- *RAFC Bowling Club
- *WW Country Club Pro Am
- *Turvey Park AFC
- *Uranquinty Netball
- *P Cattell (AFL)
- *South Wagga Lions (Chariot Races)
- *Tolland Soccer Club
- *Wagga Softball
- *Mission Australia
- *Riverina Rollers
- *Riverina Umpires Association
- *Myers Community Fund
- *Rules Club Bowling Club
- *WW Cycle Club
- *Wagga Wagga Tennis Assoc
- *Wagga Wagga Field Archers
- *AFL (NSW/ACT)
- *C-A-K Junior AFC
- *T Cowie – Golf
- *Wagga Wagga Swim and Lifesaving
- *Wagga Wagga Cricket Association
- *Wagga Wagga Cricket Association
- *Carts Association
- *Mission Australia
- *Wagga Wagga, District Greyhound Association
- *Technical Aid to the Disabled
- *Wagga Wagga Womens Health Centre
- *Blue J's Softball Club
- *Wagga Wagga Darts Association
- *Northcott Disability Services
- *South Wagga Cricket Club
- *MV AFA
- *Wagga Wagga Country Club (Vets)
- *Wagga Wagga Public School After care
- *Rules Club Bowling Club
- *Donation
- *Heart Support Group
- *Reserves Forces Day
- *Holy Trinity Primary School
- *South City Rugby League
- *NSW Cancer Council
- *Wagga Wagga Netball
- *CAK Netball
- *Wagga Wagga Family Support Services
- *Darts Team
- *CAK Junior AFC
- *Wagga Wagga Legacy
- *Zone 8 bowls
- *MUC FC
- *RAFC Darts
- *Turvey Park Junior AFC
- *Wagga Wagga Tigers Junior
- *St Vincent DePaul Mica House
- *Australian Drug Foundation
- *RAFC Women's Bowling Club
- *J. Tancredi (Gymnastics)
- *Sacred Heart Refugee Support Group
- *Leukaemia Foundation
- *Country Hope
- *Vision Australia
- *Royal Life Saving Society
- *Toy Library Wagga Wagga Inc

Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme (CDSE)

The Rules Club is also required to contribute funds to community projects under the Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme (CDSE), in conjunction with DOCS and Wagga Wagga City Council.

The set requirement of the CDSE Scheme is for clubs to allocate 1.5% of the clubs gaming machine profits over \$1 million to community development and support. The 2007 / 2008 year seen the Rules Club contribute \$90,747.65 to this scheme.

It should be noted that the CDSE Scheme was first introduced in 1998. Since then over \$538 million has been provided by registered clubs, participating in the Scheme to their local

communities to support schools, charities, sporting groups, health services and agencies working with the disadvantaged.

Financial Impact

Rules Club Wagga Wagga relies heavily on gaming machine revenue and will be unable to remain profitable without them.

This lack of profitability will adversely affect club patrons, who rely on the Rules Club for social interaction, entertainment, and the local community who benefit from the club's investment in local sporting teams and community programs.