

21 March 2009

*Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City ACT 2601*

*Dear Commissioners*

*Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Australia's gambling industry.*

### **Key Facts**

*Warringah Golf Club is located in the Northern Beaches area of the Sydney metropolitan area and was established in 1936. The club has 615 adult playing members, 56 junior playing members and over 270 members with social and non playing membership rights to the club. In addition to providing an 18 hole golf course and clubhouse facilities for its members, the golf course is one of the most popular in metropolitan Sydney for golf play by social golfers. Over 45,000 rounds of social golf are played on the course each year in addition to the 22,000 rounds of members' competition golf.*

The main facilities provided for the use and enjoyment of members, guests and social golfers are:

- A beautifully maintained 18 hole golf course
- Golf practice facilities
- Regular lessons for junior golfers
- A comfortable main lounge facility in the clubhouse
- A sports bar facility which includes a TAB outlet
- 18 Poker machines;
- A Function room that is used to conduct an array of functions each year for the enjoyment of club members, private functions and other functions including community and fund raising events.

### **Economic contribution**

*Warringah Golf Club employs 9 full time staff in the golf course maintenance department, one full time and three part time staff in the administration department and eight part time staff in the bar and gaming service department. In addition, the club caterer who provides food service in the clubhouse and golf course snack food facility employs two full time staff and six casual staff.*

*Poker machines and gambling services accounted for 6% of the club's total revenue in the club year ending August 2008. This may seem a small percentage however due to the unusual circumstances of the clubhouse not being located on the golf course; the overall percentage of the club's total revenue from clubhouse trading is much lower than comparable clubs. The 6% represents approximately \$105,000 which is an important income source for supporting the provision of well maintained clubhouse facilities for members and guests and the maintenance of the golf course for members and social golfers.*

### **Social contribution**

*Warringah Golf Club throughout its history has been regarded as an integral part of the Warringah community and has many members who have been members of the club for over*

*20 years, some up to 60 years. In this time of an aging population, the golf club and course are an integral meeting place for many of these people on a day to day, week to week basis.*

*Within the social golfer community there are two groups of ladies who regularly play together and have been the means of introducing many women to the enjoyment and physical activity that the game of golf provides. One of these groups recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*The golf club through introductory lessons and coaching has been the starting point for thousands of young people to golf as a healthy and socially responsible sporting activity.*

*The golf course is operated on land leased from Warringah Council and in the 2007/08 year over \$940,000 was spent on maintaining and improving the golf course for the enjoyment of club members and the many thousands of social golfers each year. Where possible, goods and services for the golf course and clubhouse are sourced from suppliers in the local Northern Beaches area of Sydney.*

*In the last financial year, the club provided financial support and in kind support to the following organisations by use of the golf course and clubhouse facilities or provision of golf play vouchers on the golf course:*

- *Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club*
- *The Diabetes Association*
- *The Manly Lions Club*
- *The Melanoma Foundation*
- *The Cancer Council*
- *Many local schools and charities*

### **Responsible Gambling commitment**

Warringah Golf Club takes our commitment to the responsible provision of gambling services seriously. The club subscribes to the Club Safe program and it is club policy that all staff that assists in the delivery of gaming services completes the Responsible Conduct of Gaming Certificate.

As detailed earlier, poker machine revenue is a small portion of the club's revenue stream however it allows the provision and maintenance of comfortable facilities in the clubhouse for members and guests and helps to keep the charges that are made to members and social golfers to enjoy golf play on the course to a minimum.

**This submission is from:  
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