

Tamworth City Bowling Club Ltd

Keith Stevenson for Board of Directors

Summary

This submission has been written in order to outline the financial position of the Tamworth City Bowling Club and the effect that Family First's Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax (Administration) Bill could have on the ability of some organisations to continue to operate.

Tamworth City Bowling Club is an affiliated member Club of the Royal NSW Bowling Association, having been affiliated with that organisation in 1920 after commencing to operate in 1919.

The Club is situated on the eastern side of Tamworth City and is one of five bowling clubs within the City boundaries but one of 7 within the local government area.

In 2007 the Club experienced significant revenue from gaming which was the Club's greatest source of income.

In 2008 attributed to anti smoking laws this income decreased alarmingly while total operating expenses of the Club increased.

As a result the Clubs total profitability fell from \$77737 in 2007 to \$5450 in 2008.

This Club believes that the imposition of any further taxes should they be introduced can do immense harm to the ability of many Clubs (in particular smaller venues) to continue to operate.

2 Introduction

Tamworth City Bowling Club Ltd by today's standards is a small Club having been commenced in 1919 and affiliated with the Royal NSW Bowling Association in 1920 then being the only Club in Tamworth and enjoying large membership. Since then four other Clubs have established within the City boundaries and 4 others within the local government area.

It is situated on the corner of Brisbane and Napier Streets and is adjacent to Anzac Park a very popular family venue.

2. Facilities

- The Club operates two (2) bowling greens (lawn) of very high standard and allows croquet to be played on what is now a disused third green.
- The Club provided restaurant/bistro facilities for 180-200 patrons which is also available as a function area for weddings etc.
- A small meeting room accommodating up to 30 persons is also available.

3. Core Purpose

The main purpose for the operation of the Club is to promote the sport of lawn bowls as a recreational activity together with social activities available to organisations through the playing of this sport.

To provide a venue in the City for dining in the main for the older generation who form a large percentage of the membership of the Club. Such a venue provides easy access and parking away from the busy area of the central business district which is so desired by this generation.

4. Membership

The membership of the Club fluctuates annually between 650 and 800 members

5. Poker Machines

Currently the Club operates thirteen (13) only poker machines all situated within a non smoking area.

In addition the Club has available Club Keno.

6. Staff

This Club currently employs one (1) full time staff member being the Secretary/Manager and up to 6 casual staff depending on staffing requirements All the staff are required to possess the Responsible Conduct of Gambling Certificate as well as the Responsible Serving of Alcohol Certificate and are not employed unless they are the holders of these certificates.

Also employed is a contract greenkeeper -
and contract caterers employing two (2) full time persons and up to 3 casuals depending on requirements

7. Financial Performance

A comparison of the Club's financial performance for 2007 and 2008 is as follows:

	2007	2008
Bar Trading	56961	44371
Gaming	201563	163180
Bowling	(35265)	(57458)
Administration	(145522)	(144643)
Profit	77737	5450

Taxation paid

As can be observed there was a major reduction in gaming for the periods whilst the administration costs were kept to a level slightly below.

We believe that the reduction in gaming income at this venue is sufficient proof that gambling is not a problem and is not in need of any further restriction.

8. Planned Investment

The Club is currently investigating the feasibility of building a small clubhouse extension for the benefit of patrons but this could be influenced by any further liability that may be incurred.

9. Links to Tourism etc.

The Club provides meals at reasonable prices through its caterers and is quite popular with tourist coaches travelling through the area.

It provides a venue during the ten days of the annual Country Music Festival for entertainment which is extremely popular providing meals etc at reasonable prices.

In addition an entertainment venue is provided at various times through the year for members and their guests enjoyment.

10. Social Contributions

At pre determined times through the year the Club makes itself available for charitable organisations and contributes considerable sums in in kind donations to these causes. The two main beneficiaries of these donations are the Northcott Society and the local Prostate Cancer Support Group as well as many smaller organisations.

11. Sporting Contribution

Facilities at the Club are always available for sporting bodies to stage their own fund raising activities in the form of social bowls and the use of barbecue equipment.

The Club plays host to the bowling club attached to the Tamworth Services Club who utilise the greens twice weekly for their members.

The unused third green has recently been made available to the Tamworth Croquet Club for their use.

12. Volunteers

Volunteers are called on at regular intervals to assist with the general operation and maintenance of the Club and clubhouse and if required for peak periods doing bar work. All volunteers doing bar and gaming duties are required to hold both the RSA and RCG Certificates and are not permitted to assist if these are not held.

13. Local Government and Lands Department.

The Tamworth City Bowling Club is situated on Crown Land attached to Anzac Park and in this situation pays considerable rates of \$11044 annually in Municipal Rates and \$2761 annually to the Department of Lands for the Perpetual Lease. This in itself is a considerable burden on the Club.

14. Conclusion

This Club would hope that:

- This tax not be imposed
- Government time be spent researching and investing in mental health together with training programmes for club staff to identify and aid problem gamblers.

It is believed that poker machine players will follow machines to any venue where they are available and will find additional ways to gamble if machines are not available.