



12<sup>th</sup> March 2009,

Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission,  
GPO Box 1428,  
Canberra City ACT 2601.

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to allow our organisation to contribute to the Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission. Attached to this letter you will find the submission from the Wollongong RSL Bowling Club Ltd for the committee to consider.

Regards,

John West  
Wollongong RSL Bowling Club Ltd  
General Manager



## Contents

- Key Facts
- Economic Contribution
  - Social Contribution
- Responsible Gaming Commitment
  - Report Summary



## Key Facts Wollongong RSL Bowling Club 1955 - 2009

The Wollongong RSL Bowling Club Ltd is located in the suburb of Figtree in Wollongong NSW.



Back in the early fifties the city of Wollongong RSL sub branch visualised the establishment of a memorial park at Figtree. A parcel of land was purchased from the Maynes estate on behalf of the sub branch some thirteen acres.

In due course a corrugated iron building about 30 feet by 15 feet was erected in the southwest corner of our present grounds this edifice, affectionate know as the tin shed was the clubs first club house.



The support of the Wollongong RSL Sub Branch deserves all the plaudits that the members of the club can offer the Sub Branch built a fine club- house which has been extended four times now. It paid for two out of the four greens at the club, provided machinery, furnished and equipped the club house. When in 1957 after the contractor had completed the original works President Norm Laneyrie sought and gained



autonomy for the bowling club. From then on the Bowlers have been in charge of the club and in control of the clubs destiny.



The club has been in operation since 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1955. The official opening of the club was the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1959.

The club currently has 1899 members.

- Full bowling Members Men 321.
- Full bowling Members Women 20.
- Lady Bowlers Women 91.
- Men Multi Memberships 18.
- Junior Bowling Members 5.
- Associate Members 1442.

The facilities we provide are as followed.

- 60 EGM.
- Four bowling greens.
- Bingo 3 times a week.
- Bistro/Restaurant offering open 7 days a week for both lunch and dinner with weekly specials for both members and their guests.
- Saturday and Sunday entertainment with a monthly concert for members and their guests.
- Daily Courtesy bus for members and their guests for both pick up and take home.
- Keno and Tab facilities.
- Function area for up 60 person's pax.
- 120 car parking spaces with 6 disabled parking spots.
- Bare foot bowls packages for up to 150 pax.
- Large screen projector for all sporting events.
- In house advertising for local business (Multi Screen) along with offers from our club sponsors.



## Economic Contribution Wollongong RSL Bowling Club 1955 - 2009

The Wollongong RSL Bowling Club currently employs.

- 14 Full time employees.
- 18 casual employees
- Total employees 32.

The Club has an agreement in place with Red Salt Catering Pty for the catering driver Red Salt employs.

- 3 full time employees.
- 4 casual employees.
- Plus the owner of the business.
- Total employees 8.

The total number of jobs generated by the club for persons in the local area is 40 persons.

Key note: The unemployment rate in the area of Wollongong is 6.9% compared with the national unemployment rate 5.1% this shows how important all positions of employment within the Illawarra area are. The Illawarra region consistently suffers from an unemployment rate that is significantly higher than most other regions not only in New South Wales but also throughout the nation.

Australian Bureau of Statistics found that “While the overall unemployment rate in the Wollongong statistical region was 6.8%, the youth unemployment rate was around 21.6%.

### 1.1 Review of operations.

Driver	2007	2008	YTD (Feb) 2009 Performance
Gaming Revenue (Nett)	1,940,961.00	\$1,669,578.00	\$1,368,610.00
Gross Bar Sales	\$1,013,735.00	\$1,125,807.00	\$910,579.00
Other	\$819,824.00	\$912,590.00	\$298,335.00
Total Expenditure	(\$3,285,899.00)	(\$4,355,900.00)	(\$2,612,488.00)
Total Revenue	\$488,621.00	(\$647,925.00)	(\$34,964.00)



### 1.2 Percentage breakdown of revenue generated:

Driver	2007	2008	YTD (Feb) 2009 Performance
Gaming Revenue (Nett)	45%	51%	53%
Gross Bar Sales	30%	27%	35%
Other	25%	22%	12%

### 1.3 Taxation payments:

Payment	2007	2008	YTD (Feb) 2009
Gaming Duty	\$299,374.00	\$242,692.00	\$229,751.00
Payroll Tax	\$22,872.00	\$51,254.00	\$25,809.00
Total	\$322,246.00	\$293,946.00	\$255,560.00

### 1.4 Bowls Revenue Breakdown

	2007	2008	YTD (Feb) 2009
Green Fees	\$31,907.00	\$35,507.00	\$31,922.00
Bowls Expenses	\$166,875.00	\$162,565.00	\$168,379.00
Driver Breakdown	(\$134,968.00)	(\$127,058.00)	(\$136,457.00)

In the past the club has been able to support losses from the bowling driver of the business as the shortfall was made up from gaming and bar revenue. Moving forward for a club the size of the Wollongong RSL Bowling Club this will no longer be the case, therefore increases in green fees and reductions in prize moneys will become part of the new business model.

The club has an agreement in place with a food provider and as mentioned in the above paragraph in the past the club was able to subsidise meals and offer members and their guest special cheaper food options. Moving forward this will no longer be viable for the business.



## Social Contribution Wollongong RSL Bowling Club 1955 – 2009

The Wollongong RSL Bowling Club Ltd has been and will continue to be a contributor to local charities and sporting groups below is a detail list of the many contributions and donations that have been made over the past years.

Payment	2007	2008	YTD (Feb) 2009
CDSE Cat 1	\$7441.00	\$9295.00	\$13,709.00
CDSE Cat2	\$7441.00	\$9295.00	\$3,470.00
Members Discounts	\$4,900.00	\$4,150.00	\$0.00
Donations/Sponsorship	\$13,392.00	\$10,368.00	\$21,863.00
Total	\$28,274.00	\$28,958.00	\$39,042.00

The club also provides use of its buses to a number of local community groups such as;

- Tom Thumb Day Care (Aged Care)
- VIP (Visually Impaired Persons).
- Figtree Anglican Church.

The club just recently donated \$4,500.00 to the Victorian Bush Fire appeal and has in the past donated funds to other disaster appeals as well as still committing donations and time to local organisations.

It is becoming increasingly hard for clubs of any size to continue to donate both time and cash to as many community and national charities and organisations as we would all like to.

The level of sponsorship commitment from the Wollongong RSL Club this year will be halved due to the cost outlined above in this report. The persons of the local sporting and community clubs are the ones that will feel the effect and more so the youth of the area as the two local soccer clubs that are sponsored will only receive \$5,000.00 from the club each instead of \$10,000.00 each which was sponsored last financial year.

Looking forward, the club will be drilling down on all cost that are associated with the running of the business and the reality of the situation is that donations and community programs that don't generate moneys will be the first to be looked at. The effect of this will result in not as much moneys being spent back into the community without return on investment.



## **Responsible Gaming Commitment**

The Wollongong RSL Bowling Club is committed to complying with all gaming standards and makes its RCG responsibilities a priority. Senior staff members have recently undertaken a refresher course in both RSA & RCG.

The Operations Manager and one of our Duty Managers of the club have also just completed the new Secretary Manager's course that is run by the CMMA. The course covered RCG compliance.

I myself will be attending the NSW Legal conference on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2009. One of the seminars that I will be attending is relating to the changes to gaming legislation.

All staff that work at the Wollongong RSL Bowling Club have a clear understanding of what is expected when working at the club and in particular the processes involved when dealing with any RCG issues.

## **Report Summary**

The industry at present is facing some very tough times with no smoking and changes to the liquor act plus a lot of public pressures relating back to alcohol related crime. Not only are we being hit with what would seem a super pokie taxes and changes to compliance every time we turn a corner it would seem the expectations of the greater community is that clubs will be there to hand out time and time again. The reality of the situation is that clubs are being hit with increases to all parts of their businesses and somewhere along the line there will be some casualties. I would like to think that with the contribution from clubs to the community the government would ease pressure or at least be working closer with clubs to ensure the survival of these great community centres.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Wollongong RSL Bowling Club.

John West  
General Manager