

GOULBURN GOLF CLUB LIMITED
BLACKSHAW ROAD GOULBURN NSW 2580

Submission to the Community Affairs Committee of the Federal Senate
regarding the Inquiry into Poker Machine Harm Reduction Tax
(Administration) Bill 2008.

Goulburn Golf Club has been operating since 1898 as an 18 hole Golf Course, with an aim to provide first class affordable Golfing & recreational facilities for Members & Guests, by encouraging and advancing the game of Golf at all levels within our community and to provide a social outlet that has a different style to the larger Clubs operating in the City of Goulburn. The Club is the 4th oldest and continually operated golf club in NSW, celebrating its centenary in 1998.

The Club's Board consists of a President, two Vice Presidents, Patron, Captain & Vice Captain & four Directors, all of whom offer their services on a voluntary basis.

The Club employs a Manager – 5 full time staff – 1 part time staff & four casual staff. Level of taxation \$60,000 p.a.

1. Catering is run independently – employing up to 8 staff depending on the level of functions and confirmed bookings in conjunction with an 'open to the public bistro'. Seating arrangements can accommodate up to 250 people.
2. Our Golf Professional is on a retainer & we provide a shop for him to run his business from. He employs 2 casual staff and operates the business with the assistance of his family members.

Membership as at 1/6/08 consists of:-

372 Golf Members
89 Pensioner Golf Members
84 Country Golf Members
9 Student Golf Members
34 Junior Golf Members
4 Staff Golf Members

6 Life Members
24 Sub Junior Golf Members
585 Non Golf/Social Members

The Club runs three weekly Competitions for our Members (including Ladies). Average numbers approx 260. Throughout the course of the year the Club is involved in regional (ACT District Golf Association) Pennant matches with normally 5 or 6 teams through various grades, each team of 6 players, whilst the Ladies provide 3 teams to Pennant matches.

As well there are three Social Golf Clubs that use the course Sun, Mon, Tues, being The Railway Social Club, Returned Services Club & Goulburn Workers Club - weekly numbers average 90. Throughout the course of the year, the Club provides its golfing facilities for local schools as part of their personal development programs, corporate and sponsors days, charity and fund raising functions and inter-regional events.

As you will appreciate Golfing Members Fees are reviewed annually in line with maintaining our Course & Machinery Assets but usually in line with CPI.

Over the past five years we have upgraded Course Facilities with a new machinery shed & compound as well as new machinery. A dam has also been constructed to assist with watering.

Over this period we have kept our Course expenditure net of wages to approx \$120k p.a.

The Club is located in close proximity to the Goulburn Railway Bowling Club, currently in the hands of an Administrator, as well as the Goulburn Workers Club & the Goulburn RSL. The latter two Clubs are much larger & provide different services in that they do not have to cater for Golfing or Bowling members assets of maintaining a Golf Course or Bowling Greens and Machinery.

TYPES OF REVENUE

To gain a better understanding of our Trading since 2004 (please see attached progressive analysis) we provide commentary as:-

Increase in all areas coincided with the decision, on advice from our Accountants, to renovate the Club as it had become very tired with the

last major renovation completed 1970. We funded by way of tendering a four year Membership – this has now expired.

Whilst our Gaming Revenue is under the taxation threshold we had to, at considerable cost, renovate the premises to cater for the introduction of the non smoking regulations. Had it not been for “in kind” contributions of some of our members associated with the building industry this cost would have been beyond our capacity. This facility was fully funded by our Bankers.

As it is, the regulation prohibits us from having poker machines in the smoking area due to the open space to floor area ratio.

We now find the economic climate has impacted on our Gaming Operation with turnover down 33% in 2008 & continuing into 2009. This is despite undertaking a complete upgrade of our 19 machines over the past three years – we are now told our technology is 12 months out of date.

We also provide Keno & Snooker facilities for our Members, and offer room hire for formal and informal functions.

HARRY FORD, VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER GOULBURN GOLF CLUB.