

# Forbes Services Memorial Club Ltd

ABN 49 000 980 058

Templar Street, (P.O. Box 150) Forbes NSW 2871



26<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission.

The data set out below attempts to summarise the valuable contribution the Forbes Services Memorial Club (FSMC) makes to the community. For many it is their social centre and represents the only family they have.

9 years ago the FSMC amalgamated with the Forbes Golf Club which was in financial difficulty at the time and in danger of closing. Considerable funds have been utilised by the FSMC propping up the Forbes Golf Club site in order to maintain it as an important community facility. Unfortunately with the imposts of increased gaming taxes, smoking legislation and the drought, the FSMC has had to relinquish its financial support of the Forbes Golf Course side of the operation. At this stage we are continuing to operate the Forbes Golf Clubhouse however our ability to support this operation is also under pressure and further imposts on the Clubs industry would severely affect our ability to continue to run this site.

## **Key Facts**

Location:	Forbes (Central West of NSW)
Local Population:	Approx. 10,000 in the immediate district plus services numerous travelers due to location on the Newell Highway.
Club Membership:	Approx. 4,800
Established:	Forbes Services Memorial Club – 1953 Forbes Golf Club – 1908
No. of Employees:	Approx. 70 including full-time, part-time & casual staff.
Members Benefits:	Subsidised Meals & Drinks Discounts on Meals & Drinks Member Draws & Promotions
No. Gaming Machines:	81 – Forbes Services Memorial Club 6 – Forbes Golf Club
Gaming Revenue:	\$3,063,776.37 Including GST
(1/12/07 – 30/11/08)	\$2,785,251.25 Excluding GST (GST Paid of \$278,525.12)
Gaming Tax Paid:	\$482,436.40
(1/12/07 – 30/11/08)	Equates to 17.32% of GST Exclusive Gaming

The facilities provided by the Clubs include:

- Keno
- TAB
- Poker Machines
- Meeting Rooms & Function Facilities
- Bistro
- Restaurant
- Squash Courts
- ATM facilities

Internal Clubs:

- Darts
- Bingo
- Bridge
- Euchre
- Country Music Club
- Indoor Bowls
- Squash

#### **Economic Contribution**

The Club employs approximately 70 staff including full-time, part-time & casual staff.

Poker machine and gambling service revenues account for the majority of the Clubs Revenue. While we are attempting to make our bar and catering operations as profitable as possible, without our gaming revenue the Club simply would not survive. Any future reductions in gaming revenues would also place the Club under significant pressure to survive.

The Club also generates significant GST for the government. Our net GST liability is usually in the vicinity of \$25,000 - \$30,000 per month.

#### **Social Contribution**

Recipients of CDSE funding & sponsorships from the Club in recent years include:

- Forbes Cricket Club
- Forbes Junior Cricket
- Forbes District Tennis Club
- Forbes Diggers Swimming Club
- Forbes Rugby Union
- Forbes Little Athletics
- Forbes PA&H Association
- Forbes Touch Football Association
- Forbes North Public School Breakfast Program (2,006 meals served under this program in 2008)
- Forbes Womens Netball
- Forbes & District Hockey Club
- Forbes Rugby League

- Forbes Junior Rugby League
- Red Bend Junior Rugby League
- Forbes District Soccer Club
- Can Assist Cancer Care
- Child Flight
- Forbes Rotary Club
- Lachlan Legacy
- Jemalong Retirement Village
- The Spastic Centre
- Careflight
- Lifeline Central West
- Goods Sports Australian Drug Foundation
- Forbes Birth to Kinder Reading Program
- Forbes Preschool
- Youth Off The Streets
- Forbes Torchbearers for Legacy
- Alzheimers Australia
- Forbes Public School
- Forbes High School
- Kidney Car Rally
- KIDS Foundation

Our Club provided approximately \$35,000 in CDSE funding in the last 12 months.

The Club also provides subsidised meals to the Forbes & District Meals on Wheels Association. This is a vitally important service to the community that provides nutritious food to the elderly, frail & needy.

In-kind support is provided to Community Non-Profit groups via the provision of meeting rooms at no charge.

We also provide an office for the RSL Sub-Branch and Legacy at no charge so that they can conduct their respective activities.

If you have any queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Ryan Thornberry (B. Bus, CPA)  
Finance Manager  
Forbes Services Memorial Club Limited