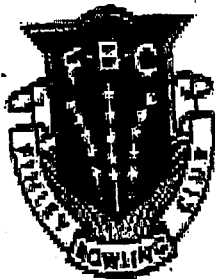


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FINLEY BOWLING CLUB LIMITED



26.3.2009.

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President: Mick Chaplin
 Secretary: G Pyle
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Gambling Inquiry Productivity Commission,
 GPO Box 1428
 Canberra . City ACT 2601.

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on behalf of the Finley Bowling Club. The Club premises are located on the junction of the Newell and the Riverina Highways. It was established and opened its activities on 20. 11 1948, with the club charter of "promoting the game of bowls for Finley and district people". It is a mixed club(ladies and men), and has 477 members, 77 playing members and 400 social members. There are 2 tift dwarf greens established.

In order to provide entertainment for members and visitors, or to create a social outing Atmosphere, 20 poker machines and Keno gaming is available for use, 3 raffles sessions and a members draw are conducted weekly. The club is designed so that it can be sectionalised and hold four different functions at the same time. There is no permanent bistro. A caterer provides meals for social evenings and bowling carnivals To provide the necessary service to members and visitors and efficiently staff the club has seven paid employees(2 full time, 2 permanent part time, 3 casual)

Poker machines and gambling services have produced a good stream of income, so much so that clubs generally are depending on this. Gambling activities represent a high % of the trading income. Naturally, this varies from year to year. In 2006, gambling represented 48% of trading income. In 2007, the amount was 49%, and 2008 was 49% again. However this % will not be achievable for 2009, as a result of the drought conditions in the Riverina and the general recession for Australia.

During the Club's history, contributions have been made to schools, sporting bodies, registered charities and other worthwhile organisations, such as booklets advertising the area and district and publications that are circulated throughout N.S.W. eg "Jewell of the Newell Highway" (Finley is on the Newell highway.)

Recent donations have been made to :

Finley Football Club – major sponsor	\$5000	Country Hope, Camp Quality
Finley Cricket Club		Fred Hollows Appeal
Finley Schools (3)		Youths off the Streets
Finley Show Society		Guide Dogs Organisation
Finley Netball Club		Paraplegics Games
Finley Tractor Pull		Crystic Fibrosis
Finley Rodeo		Red Shied Appeal
Finley Chamber of Commerce		

It is the hope of all Directors that support to the organisations listed can be maintained in the future. This may not be possible if the proposed Tax Bill is implemented.

Finley Bowling Club is a member of Club Plus and it does possess a definite commitment to provide the necessary responsible gambling environment. All staff possess a certificate for Responsible Conduct of Gambling. Finley is only a small town,(2000 population), and the Bowling Club is only 1 of 3 clubs serving the town and district The R.S.Club is the largest club. There is no problem being experienced with gambling.

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It is of utmost importance that no additional burden be placed on club activities through the introduction of further taxation. This new bill, if introduced, would have significant affect on the viability of clubs and the role played by clubs in providing for community activities.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Pyle
Greg Pyle,
Secretary.