

# The Buffs Club

Mt Isa's  
Favourite  
Watering Hole



CARPENTARIA  
Buffalo Club  
MOUNT ISA INCORPORATED

# Mount Isa's Award Winning Club

Winner of...

*Best Club North 2ld - 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007 and 2009*

*Best Community Service by a large Licensed Club 2ld - 1995, 2002*

*Best Responsible Gaming Venue 2ld - 2001*

*Best Redevelopment or Alteration 2ld - 1999, 2005*

*Best Social Club 2ld - 2006, 2008*

*Best Club Coffee Shop - 2008*

*Best Club Keno Operation - 2008*

*Best Club Keno CO-Ordinator - 2008*

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2009

Gambling Inquiry – Draft Report  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2, Collins St East, Melbourne  
VIC 8003

Dear Sir,

## Re: Club Response to the Draft Report on Gambling

On behalf of my Management Committee I am writing to express our concerns on your Draft Report on Gaming.

Our Club is situated in Mount Isa, North West Queensland. One of the main objects of our Club is to assist the community by supporting charitable organizations, amateur sporting bodies and cultural groups. Our commitment to the community has seen us twice awarded Best Community by a Licensed Club in Queensland.

We are one of the larger employers in the city. We currently employ 132 staff, 25 of which are full time, 20 part time and 87 casual. The reason for the high level of casual employment is that many of our female staff works around their partner's rosters, most of who are employed in the mining industry.

Our Club has approx 14,000 members which with a local population of approximately 21,000 people show that the majority of the adult population are members of our Club. Our members visit the Club for a range of services and facilities. Apart from gaming, these mainly include socializing in our coffee shop, dining in the restaurant and live entertainment. Our gaming facilities include 105 poker machines, a TAB outlet and three keno terminals.

We are highly committed to ensuring our gaming services are conducted in a responsible manner. We prescribe to the Queensland Responsible Gambling Code of Practice and are very aware of our obligations and responsibilities to people who may have a gambling problem. We have two trained customer liaison officers who can deal with people that wish to self exclude. We are also a former winner of the Best Responsible Gaming by a Licensed Club in Queensland which further demonstrates our commitment to responsible

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gambling service. While we welcome the gambling inquiry we are concerned about the negative impact many of the recommendations would have on ours and many other clubs. We would be most likely forced to cut jobs, curtail many of the services we provide and most importantly, we would have to reduce our community support.

In the last financial year we returned approximately \$178,000 in cash and in-kind support. This level of funding is funded mainly through our community gaming and would not be possible should our gaming profits dwindle, which I believe would be guaranteed should the measures in the Draft Report be implemented. There would not be a school or sporting club in our city that doesn't currently receive some form of funding or assistance from our Club. Since the collapse of the global economy our Club and in particular our region is yet to recover. I fear the Draft Report would be the final nail in our coffin and could lead to a major overhaul of what our Club could offer to the community.

We urge the Productivity Commission to reconsider their recommendations and take into account what would happen to many community clubs and the communities who heavily rely on them should the draft recommendations remain unchanged.

I hope this letter has helped in understanding the importance gaming has in community clubs and the negative impact the draft recommendations may have on community gaming.

Yours Faithfully,



Justin Wilkins  
Executive Manager