

D. Pobje
D. Fox

2nd December 2009

Productivity Commission Gambling Inquiry
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide the following submission.

The Woodburn Evans Head RSL Club Ltd is located on the Coast of Northern New South Wales in the village of Evans Head which has a population of approx 3100.

The Woodburn Evans Head RSL Club replaced its old wooden club house with a modern two story brick building and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on the 6th April 1972. Our club currently has 3016 members.

The Club currently operates 59 gaming machines and has a SIA approved for a further 10. Other services that our Club operates are:

- Club Keno
- TAB
- Bistro
- Function and meeting rooms.
- Multi Function entertainment room.
- Holiday accommodation. (5 Units)

Our Club currently employs 7 permanent staff in conjunction with 26 casuals and our wages bill for the 2008-2009 financial year was \$341,652.00, it should also be noted that our club is the largest employer in Evans Head.

In the year ended 31st August 2009 the Club as part of the Richmond Valley CDSE Committee donated CDSE cat 1 \$7,721.50 & cat 2 \$8,770.00 totalling \$16,491.50. The Clubs total donations directly into our local community was \$29,813.65 in cash, this figure does take into account for in-kind donations of services and room hire etc.

Local organisations to benefit from cash donations and support were:

- Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Evans Head Flotilla.
- Cancer Council
- Casino Racing Club
- Evans Head Bowling Club Seafood Carnival
- Evans Head Fishing Classic
- Evans Head Junior Rugby League
- Evans Head Ladies Bowling Club
- Evans Head Rugby League Football Club
- Evans River K-12 School
- Laurel Club
- Lions Club
- Mid Richmond Retirement Village
- Movember Foundation
- Pedal for Preschools
- Senior Citizens Week
- View Club
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
- Woodburn and District Garden Club
- Woodburn Chamber of Commerce
- Woodburn Evans Junior Golf Club
- Woodburn Evans Head Ladies Auxiliary
- Woodburn Evans Head RSL Sub-Branch
- Woodburn Evans Head RSL Pool Club
- Woodburn Evans Head Social Golf Club
- Woodburn Ladies Bowling Club
- Woodburn Public School
- Woodburn Wolves Soccer Club
- Evans River Day Club
- Evans Head Men's Shed

There are many more community organisations that we simply give meeting rooms to, loan equipment, free of charge photo copying for etc.

Our Clubs gaming machine income at 30th June 2009 was 71.19% of total income with bar income of 11.26% and Keno 1.88% the TAB costs us money each year to operate but is a service for our members.

Our Clubs gaming machine taxation paid (including GST) last financial year was \$445,476.76. Currently we have no borrowings however we are looking at purchasing a gaming system which will cost approximately \$460,000.00.

Our Clubs profits have gone from \$7,634.00 at 30th June 2008 to \$17,566 at 30th June 2009. The Clubs cash flow is fair but the operating expenses have skyrocketed with the cost of electricity rising and expected to rise significantly in coming years, the impact of the local Richmond Valley Council decision to put business rates up by 81% over two years hurts with 41% in the first year being an increase in rates of \$12,000.00. These increases are only a few items, everything is going up constantly and as far as I would love to say we are becoming less reliant on gaming revenue I must say it is totally the opposite.

The Woodburn Evans Head RSL Club is committed to the Responsible Conduct of Gaming and is a long standing member of Club Safe with all employees who are in any way at all involved with gaming or gambling being the holders of RCG certificates.

The demographics and socio economics of Evans Head means we currently rely very heavily on pensioners and holiday makers to this area and in this current economic climate it is only becoming tougher to sustain any sort of profit yet alone trying to support the local community.

In closing I hope the comments and observations in the content of this submission help to give you an honest picture of what is happening in our Industry.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Fox
CEO