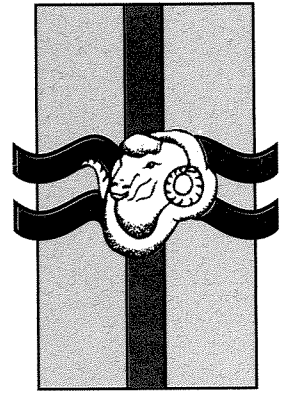


Wednesday 9 August 2006

Submission
No 24

The Committee Manager
Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



**DENILIQUIN
COUNCIL**

Dear Sir

Inquiry into Sportsground Management in NSW

I refer to your letter of 7 July 2006 and provide the following comments to assist with your inquiry:

- *Adequacy of provision of sportsgrounds in key demand areas*

Deniliquin is a regional service town that provides a number of sporting facilities to the smaller communities of surrounding shires. These facilities include a swimming centre, Memorial Park, Rotary Park and Deniliquin Oval. These provide sporting grounds for all codes of football, netball and athletics as well as equestrian events.

Deniliquin Council is unique in that it has an area of 130 sq. klms. and is surrounded by Conargo and Murray Shire Councils whose residents utilize the sporting facilities that are provided and maintained by Deniliquin Council.

- *Current requirement for upgrading and refurbishment of sportsgrounds and supporting infrastructure*

The money that is made available from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation needs to be substantially increased to meet the needs of smaller communities and to provide much needed facilities. The Capital Assistance Grants, made available to each NSW Electorate, is far too small to be of any real significance, when compared to the costs to provide improved infrastructure such as lighting, automated watering systems, car parks and amenity buildings.

The average grant under this program is \$5000 - \$8,000 and is far too small to assist Councils that are looking to provide or improve facilities to their communities that involve significant cost.

The other grant program provided by the Department for major projects, *Regional Sports Facilities Program* appears to go to the larger regional centres such as Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Dubbo and Albury.

All correspondence to
be directed to the
General Manager

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"Achievement through Action"

Funds that are available to smaller Councils, such as Deniliquin, from their Annual Management Plans, are relatively small, compared to the larger Councils in NSW. The smaller Councils need more assistance to provide facilities to the same standard as their larger counterparts. This may be achievable with revised grant programs.



- *Appropriateness and fairness of Council pricing principles and facilities*

The Council applies partial cost recovery to users for use of its sporting facilities.

The Council has three main sporting grounds:

1. Memorial Park – this facility is home to a number of sporting and other organizations including the Deniliquin District Cricket Association, Rovers Football & Netball Club, Deniliquin Netball Association, Deniliquin P&A Society, Deniliquin Sheepdog Association and the Deniliquin Tentpeppers Association.

Because of its high usage the oval is in need of a major refurbishment i.e. levelling, drainage work and the installation of an automated watering system, but because of its demand for use, maintenance and lack of funds, improvement work is very difficult to schedule.

- 2 Deniliquin Oval – this oval is home to an Australian Rules and Rugby Club. The oval is leased to the Deni Rams Football & Netball Club for a peppercorn rental and they are responsible for all the maintenance and improvement works at the ground.

The Council only offers minor financial assistance to this facility.

3. Rotary Park – this facility is in the development phase and is a long term project of the Council. Currently there is an indoor sports stadium located at the reserve with the operation of that facility being leased. Both the Senior and Junior Soccer Associations also play there.

The council advertises on a seasonal basis for applications to use its sporting facilities and the fees and charges for such use is charged in accordance with the fees adopted in the annual management plan. (Copy of current fees attached.)

Because the Council cannot provide all the facilities required by the users, some organizations provide their own. The Council simply cannot provide many of the facilities demanded by the community due to financial constraints.



- *Environmental Issue, including water conservation and ground maintenance*

Overuse of facilities and old watering systems are a major concern for the Council, in so far as maintenance of its sporting grounds are concerned.

As mentioned above, overuse of facilities does not allow for proper maintenance. The diverse use of some of the grounds (football, cricket, showjumping, Tentpegging, athletics and football) and overlapping of seasonal sports, results in reduced maintenance and deterioration of facilities because of time limitations.

- *Residential amenity, public liability and security issues*

All of the Councils sporting grounds are located away from residential areas and there is no real concern with noise or traffic generating problems, associated with use of the facilities.

A Management Committee has been set up to manage Memorial Park. While this Committee is only in its infancy, all organizations represented on the committee appear to be working well together and with the Council to overcome any problems that arise at the reserve as a result of their activities and use.

I trust that these comments will assist you with your inquiry.

Yours faithfully



**GRAEME HALEY
GENERAL MANAGER**

encl



Reserves and Sportsgrounds					
Memorial Park					
P & A Society – Annual Show	\$1200.00	per day	P	Y	\$1090.00
P & A Society – Sheep Dog Trials	\$139.00	per day	P	Y	\$126.00
Knock Out Sports Carnivals per day Miscellaneous activities to be considered on merit					
Deniliquin District Cricket Assoc	\$740.00		P	Y	\$673.00
Deniliquin Rovers Football Club	\$1,492.00	per annum	P	Y	\$1,356.00
Deniliquin Touch Football Assoc	\$139.00	per annum	P	Y	\$126.00
Deniliquin Rugby Union	\$649.00	per annum	P	Y	\$590.00
Deniliquin Rugby League	\$649.00	per annum	P	Y	\$590.00
Deniliquin Netball Assoc	\$359.00	per annum	P	Y	\$326.00
Equestrian Events – Bond	\$405.00		P	Y	\$368.00
Equestrian Events (Including Tent Pegging)– per daily use	\$275.00		P	Y	\$250.00
Circuses (including cleaning)	\$275.00	per day	P	Y	\$250.00
Bond (refundable)	\$250.00		P	Y	\$200.00
Rotary Park					
Deniliquin Hockey Assoc	\$649.00	per annum	P	Y	\$590.00
Deniliquin Soccer Club	\$649.00	per annum	P	Y	\$590.00
Other Parks And Reserves					
As per quote					

PRICING POLICY: S=Statutory Costs; P=Partial Cost Recovery; F=Full Cost Recovery