



ABN 81 011 241 552

Upper Lachlan Shire Council

All correspondence addressed to the General Manager, PO Box 10, Crookwell NSW 2583

Crookwell Office: 44 Spring Street, Crookwell NSW 2583

p: 02 4832 1022 | f: 02 4832 2066 | e: council@crookwell.nsw.gov.au | www.upperlachlan.local-e.nsw.gov.au

Gunning Office: 123 Yass Street, Gunning NSW 2581

p: 02 4845 4100 | f: 02 4845 1426 | e: council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au

Taralga Office: Taralga Community Service Centre, Orchard Street, Taralga NSW 2580

p: 02 4840 2099 | f: 4840 2296 | e: taralgacsc@ceinternet.com.au

**Submission
No 12**

bc:sp

Please quote when responding: 6.1.41

2 August, 2006

The Committee Manager
Standing Committee on public works
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Inquiry into Sports Ground Management and the Affect of Litigation and Insurance costs on Financial Viability

Upper Lachlan Shire is predominately an agricultural community and as such its needs in the management of sporting groups differ from those of urban areas. The Shire is fortunate to have a diversity of organised sports such as Hockey, Soccer, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Golf, Touch Football, Cricket, Swimming, Tennis and Pony club, all of which use Council facilities.

The Upper Lachlan area has been affected by drought for a number of years, which has placed a lot of financial pressure on many families and businesses within the region. This has forced many families to rely on both parents to be employed outside the home. Employment for these people may include weekends and / or shift work. For these families time becomes a valuable resource that can limit their ability to organise and participate in sporting events. The increasing demands of daily living and the pressures of organising make it harder for people to justify participating in organised sport.

Very limited funds are available to develop sport in the shire. These funds are earned through canteens and fundraising activities, with all monies raised put back into the organisation to maintain equipment and help keep fees affordable. The rising cost of insurance is taking away money that could have been spent to improve fields or equipment. Further increases in insurance premiums and further drains on organiser's time may mean that for many families being part of an organised sport will be beyond their means which could lead to the loss of some of the sports that are currently enjoyed in the community.

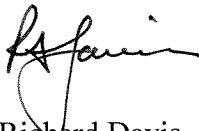
Sport in the Upper Lachlan Shire area relies heavily on dedicated groups of parents and volunteers. These groups organise referees, coaches, game timetables, food and refreshments. As well as organising sporting events they have the added pressure of meeting the requirements of Council, insurance companies and their sports association.

Any reduction in insurance or the simplification of requirements would ease the pressures of time and finance and help ensure that these organised sports are not overburdened.

Council is currently going through the process of implementing Memorandums of Understanding with all the sporting bodies that utilise council grounds as a means of meeting Council insurance and legal requirements to protect itself as well as the welfare of the sporting bodies and the community. Sadly, this is an extra burden that must be added to all official sporting bodies in the shire.

Should you have any further enquiry or require further information please do not hesitate to contact Council OH&S Coordinator, Ben Churchill on 48301030.

Yours faithfully



Richard Davis

**Acting General Manager &
Director of Environment and Planning**