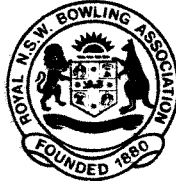


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14 July 2006

The Committee Manager  
Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Manager

**RE: SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Your correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006 is acknowledged.

The Royal NSW Bowling Association is the state body for Lawn Bowls Clubs with over 600 Clubs affiliated and 66,000 men and 29,000 women registered players (with the New South Wales Womens Bowling Association). We are the largest Lawn Bowling Association in Australia.

Additionally, our licensed Bowling Clubs have in excess of 1.2 million social members. Our Clubs provide community service and assistance state wide.

However, a number of our Bowling Clubs are on Council or Crown land. The major issue for our Clubs is when local Government and State Authorities look to increase annual lease fees to limits which are not sustainable.

Clubs NSW are currently putting forward an extensive submission to Mr Bob Costello, Director of Finance and Corporate Support at the Department of Lands; for which the RNSWBA fully supports.

Be aware that Bowling Clubs are an important community provider at all levels and therefore we look for the government of the day to recognise this contribution and display constraint on any would be additional financial burden. If a Bowling Club is forced to close due to economic pressures, then the responsibility for looking after the aged bowlers who have lost their community venue, will fall on the Government and/or Council to provide an alternative.


All of our Clubs are assisting their local community groups and this will continue provided the Clubs remain in operation. Bowling Club facilities are not professional sporting venues.

Some Bowling Clubs will not survive due to poor management and poor location, just like many businesses. However, the majority survive and are moving forward.

To address the factors so referenced:

1. In general terms, Bowling Clubs are catering for the majority of NSW regions. It is the never ending developing areas of western Sydney and the Menai / Barden Ridge areas which are of concern.
2. Clubs vary in their capacity to have adequate revenue arrangements including capital upgrades.
3. The majority of Bowling Clubs observe the environmental concerns associated with sportsground management.
4. Councils and State Governments, in general terms, handle these challenges well. However, from a Bowling Club perspective, our Clubs are "not a cash cow". Therefore, Councils and State Governments need to be balanced and mindful of the contribution year in year out made to the community by Bowling Clubs in NSW.
5. Bowling Clubs are at the forefront of health outcomes and social cohesion to assist and encourage, provided Club and social behaviour rules are abided by.
6. A case by case situation. Local Government deal with the issue in a balanced manner.
7. Clubs restricted by current land. All sport activity is in open space "on the Greens". Bowling Clubs are and have been very cooperative with regard to water conservation and options to improve the situation.

Yours sincerely



Ray Tozer  
Chief Executive Officer