



WESTON CREEK BOWLING CLUB

Fremantle Drive, Stirling, A.C.T. 2611
P.O. Box 8004, Rivett A.C.T. 2611

Telephone: (02) 6288 5047
Fax: (02) 6288 9398

11 May 2015

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly for the Act
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	93
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	9 June 2015



Dear Mr Smyth,

RE: Inquiry into elements impacting on the future of the ACT Clubs Sector

On behalf of the Weston Creek Bowling Club I wish to comment to the above Inquiry. In particular I wish to inform you of our relationship with the Canberra Labor Club Group.

The Weston Creek Bowling Club (WCBC) is an incorporated men's sporting entity within the Weston Creek Labor Club. We co-operate closely with the Women's Bowling Club to provide all levels of bowls activities for men and women in the Woden Weston Creek and Molonglo areas:

- Our club has over 200 members. While we have a number of younger players, the great majority of our members are retirees.
 - We are the major providers of organised outdoor activities for this demographic in the area.
 - Together with the Weston Creek Labor Club, we provide an important social hub for our members and visitors.
- We participate in, and host, Bowls ACT events and organise our own club bowls competitions three days per week.
- We also organise a wide range of other internal and open competitions. The most important of which is our Summer Fours competition which involves over 200 players, many visiting from interstate.
- We have been highly successful in all levels of interclub competition with all 6 teams in the State Pennant competition reaching the finals series and 3 taking out their respective premierships this year.
- The club is also strongly represented in State representative teams.

The considerable residential growth currently being undertaken in the Weston/ Molonglo area, and the ongoing rationalisation of bowls venues in Canberra ensures an increasing demand for our facilities in the future.

The Canberra Labor Club Group has consistently encouraged and supported our organisation since its purchase of the Weston Creek Club facility in 2001. One major highlight of this support was the construction of Canberra's first all weather/ all season synthetic green at a cost of over \$500 000. This project was also supported by a significant ACT Government sports grant.

The WCBC's activities are almost exclusively financially supported by the Canberra Labor Club:

- This year direct support amounts to almost \$38 000;
- The Canberra Labor Club also maintains our three bowls greens and surrounding areas. This includes the employment of two greenkeepers. I understand this amounts to well over \$200 000.
- With this sponsorship, we are able to:
 - Support our players at all levels from day and jackpot prizes for internal competitions to financial assistance for ACT representatives;
 - Purchase necessary equipment such as umpires' kits, bowls mats and jacks, scoreboards, uniforms, etc.;
 - Provide high level player coaching and finance individuals' personal development training (e.g. umpire and coaching accreditation, etc);
 - Conduct our competitions and tournaments;
 - Maintain a sporting facility for our members, members of other bowls clubs and interested members of the public; and,
 - Provide an important outlet for senior members of the Canberra community to participate in physical and social activities.

We firmly believe that the Canberra Labor Club Group and Clubs of the ACT more generally, play an invaluable role in our community. Certainly, without the very generous support of the Canberra Labor Club Group, the Weston Creek Bowling Club would cease to exist and the sport of lawn bowls would not longer be available to residents in the very broad area covering Woden, Weston Creek and Molonglo.

We cannot envisage any other organisation or government agency being able to fill the void if the Canberra Labor Club was not there to support us.

The assistance of the Club Industry in the ACT is reflected through our partnership with the Canberra Labor Club Group and is something that can only be maintained by the Club if they are able to remain a viable community asset.

I would be more than happy to expand on or explain in further detail any of the above if you wish. I can be contacted by either phone (0405 630 414) or email (patto@netspeed.com.au).

Yours sincerely



Alan Paterson
President
Weston Creek Bowling Club