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Morning Nicola

As President of the ACT-Monaro District Golf Association, I would support the proposal of Draft Proposal 298 Holt in releasing further land for housing development. The golf course in that area would provide a pleasant back drop for new homes and provide a relaxed environment in which to raise families. The Government would need to ensure that the proposal is viable, in that the golf course is able to be maintained in a satisfactory manner. This would include providing the means for the course to have access to reasonable supplies of low cost water, i.e. grey water presently being used at a reasonable rate. The indication of a sharp increase of 56% per megalitre recently advised to the club will have the effect of increasing membership costs and generally putting the opportunity of golfing membership out of reach of many prospective golfers. The higher cost of participation in golf has seen a reduction in members by some 15% nationally and the has resulted in established clubs struggling to maintain their grounds in a reasonable and attractive manner. The continued practice of authorities looking only at their financial results will reflect in the lack of opportunity for citizens to partake of healthy, non-contact exercise and put greater strain on other areas such as medical and productive pursuits.

By all means create the new development, but lighten to load on the volunteers who give gladly to the community and are rewarded by authorities who drain their resources to fill the coffers. The sport of golf makes considerable contribution to the wider community and if it is not viable, and the volunteers become discouraged by narrow thinking at government level, the community is going to suffer in the longer term.

James Hourigan
President
ACT-Monaro District Golf Association