



9 April 2014

Construction & Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) OLAB 2014
Submission 002

The Research Director

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

Submission sent by email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Director

Re: Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

Clubs Queensland supports the suite of gaming red tape reduction measures contained in the above Bill, in particular the following:

- *Removing the 'near rule'*
- *Abolishment of the 'entitlement boundaries'*
- *Allowing a different maximum number of gaming machines to be prescribed for premises*

These measures are critical to the strategic long-term financial viability of the not for profit community clubs sector because of their cumulative effect in untangling regulatory restrictions that have been stifling growth and development of community clubs in response to changing social tastes and societal shifts.

Community clubs are the heart and soul of Queensland communities but sadly, on average, 13 small clubs close their doors each year. This has a detrimental impact on all communities, but the hardest hit are those in regional centres where the local club is often the town square or community hub that builds social capital and brings communities together.

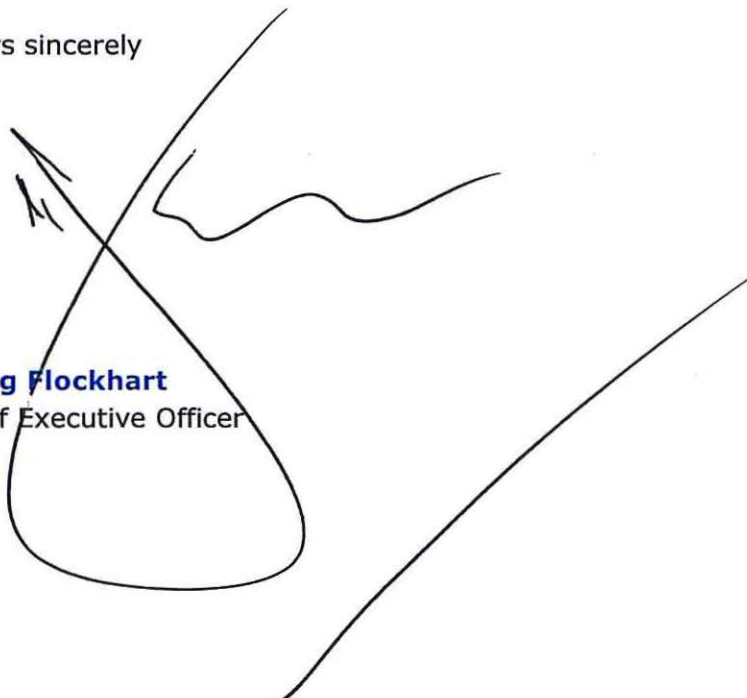
As struggling clubs close their doors, community assets and facilities are lost, placing a huge strain on local and state governments to fill the void. As community clubs administer thousands of football fields, golf courses and bowling greens, welfare offices, libraries and memorials, as well as maintain equipment across the State, which is collectively valued at over \$1.7 billion, this is no small loss.

Further, as clubs close, community funding that they provide to their local not for profit community groups such as junior coaching or schools quickly dissipates. These reforms will now allow bigger clubs to lend a helping hand to those smaller clubs that may be suffering from financial hardship as a result of natural disasters, droughts and the like. Often, smaller clubs will need temporary assistance until they are back up on their feet and the Government's reforms will now allow this to occur, providing the industry with the ability to remain viable now and into the future.

As the peak industry association of registered and licensed community clubs, Clubs Queensland have been advocating for these changes for some time and it is very pleasing that they are finally before Parliament.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you require any clarification on the above industry position.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sweeping lines that form a large loop and extend across the page.

Doug Flockhart
Chief Executive Officer