

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

Submission No:	476
Submitted by:	Woodford Agricultural, Pastoral and Industrial Association Inc
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Statewide Inquiry into Volunteering

Submission –

Woodford Agricultural, Pastoral and Industrial Association Inc

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Hello,

I recently wrote to our Local member, State Member and our local Councillor regarding why people are no longer stepping into volunteer committee positions.

Volunteering is a role that quite often goes unnoticed, people willing give up time with their family and friends, quite often take time off work whether it be unpaid or using their holiday hours, the bulk of their available time is willingly dedicated to the role they have in the committee/club/group.

Woodford Agricultural, Pastoral and Industrial association was established in 1911, and is proud to be apart of the local community, however we have a great fear that in a couple of years' time there will no longer be the 'Woodford Show' due to the decrease in volunteers.

The Woodford Agricultural, Pastoral and Industrial Association Inc in 2024 held 2 events our annual Rodeo and annual Show in order to hold these events we approach other local groups to assist with running of our events due to lack of volunteers in our association and in appreciation of this we offer a donation to the surrounding areas local clubs/groups/committees, in 2024 we donated \$12,000 to these groups.

This is from the point of view of the executive committee and what we have to deal with, what our members see and why we struggle to have anyone step up into executive roles or continue to volunteer, so you might get an idea why people like me seriously debate why I volunteer, lose time with my family and take time off work to provide events for the local community.

Who we deal with –

City of Moreton Bay Council departments

- Lease
- Sports and rec
- Permit and licence
- Tourism

Government

- Bio security
- ATO
- Grant Departments
- Labour Hire Licensing Compliance Unit
- Office of Liquor and gaming - Community Liquor Permits
- Office of fair trade
- Local police

Whilst majority of the correspondence isn't difficult it's a lot of red tape departments to communicate with and a lot of the time these departments don't understand the components of a Showgrounds.

The woodford Grounds are shared grounds, the Show Society, Football, Netball and Pony Club all use these grounds. The bulk of the maintenance falls onto the Show society with minimal assistance from our Council. There is a significant difference between a sports lease and a Show Society lease with our council.

- Recently our council – City of Moreton Bay updated their local laws introducing Event permits if we or anyone hiring the grounds want to hold an event we now have to apply for a permit meaning Woodford Show held on the Woodford Showgrounds for over 100 years now has to apply for approval to hold the event , not only that but this can effect who will hire our grounds potentially hurting our funds we put back into the grounds. This new law is creating extra workload and time that we already find hard to have. This permit request can take up to 30 days for approval but considering it takes 6 weeks to get a community liquor permit endorsement and improvement works approval through council we'll just wait and see.
- Do other clubs that use the grounds have to do event permits? No/minimal

Another component of holding a lease with City of Moreton Bay they require MOU'S with the other clubs we share the grounds with.

- What's an MOU? Well it's just a bit of paper that isn't legally binding and doesn't go into anyone's leases
- Are we protected with the clubs using our lease area for parking and such? NO and when we asked council for support in getting some protection • Indemnities and assumption of risk; • Keeping insurance and providing evidence thereof by the permitted occupier noting both the Association and the Council as interested parties; • Apportionment of responsibilities, for example for access, car parking allocation, hours and days of permitted use; • Provision of traffic and risk management plans; again we got a NO and told that if something happens on our lease area council are indemnified because we signed the lease so we are responsible.

Upon signing the lease City of Moreton Bay they pushed for the public toilets listed by QLD government to become our responsibility we fought hard not to have these as a lot of public use them and the other stakeholders also use them. Finally they saw reason after 6 month and have agreed to continue the public toilet maintenance. However, have left it open for future review. They also will not maintain the toilets if we or a hirer are holding an event.

We currently have 99 defects listed with City of Moreton Bay after their last building inspection, leaving it to volunteers to complete or paying for workers.

We recently received a warning letter from Labour Hire Licensing Compliance Unit, Office of Industrial Relations, with lots of threats of fines and jail time.

- Did you know that security companies are required to have a labour hire licence? We weren't aware and find that not only do they get in trouble, but it falls back onto groups like us that use them.
- We are not questioning if they should have had a licence, but how was this information distributed? I don't spend my spare time looking up labour hire rules
- We let him know we were unaware of this rule, and he said he'd like to meet with us about the security company
- Thinking we were doing the right thing we meet him only to be given a Notice, with lots of legal stuff and let's not forget the fine if we don't comply. So now to comb through all my correspondence with a company who we hired once, and my concern is if I give them all the information could it come back and hurt the committee?

Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation - We apply for a community liquor permit for our events as we don't hold many events during the year, our recent application for a community liquor permit took 4 months to receive. Remember how I must do the event permit for council this taking 4 months held up our application.

A community liquor permit gets is required to be endorsed by council, sent to liquor and gaming then back to council for event permit.

ATO have changed some reporting for non for profits creating extra work and dealing with ATO is frustrating, why do I have to use my private Gov ID for a community group.

Grants – whilst are great, unless you have a committed volunteer grant writer or have the funds to hire a grant writer are quite daunting with repeated questions all worded just a little different, quotes are gained which become out of date by the time any word of the grant approval/un-successful – grants time frames are extremely long.

We continue to do just our regular tasks applying for IWA, Grants. general event start up, trying to find ways to encourage people to volunteer. AGM and audit time, getting quotes and trying to get workers to start on our defect list and everyday stuff.

Please look at the following link [Community events collapse as volunteer numbers struggle around the country - ABC News](#)