



## PARKS & LEISURE AUSTRALIA (WA)

In February, Premier Colin Barnett announced the sale of the TAB could raise up to \$1 billion for the Western Australian Government. Whilst there is speculation that this figure is significantly overstated, the sale will put a major part of sport and recreation funding in Western Australia in jeopardy

It is not intended here to argue whether the sale should proceed, but to raise awareness that such a decision would affect the community much more broadly than just the racing industry.

The TAB has provided more than \$30 million dollars to sport and recreation organisations since 2004. If the TAB is sold the sports wagering account (SWA) which funds these grants could be lost.

PLA members may have no issue with the concept of selling off a profitable government asset in times of financial need. However, we will all agree that the loss of SWA funds to assist our community organisations to carry out their important work will ultimately impact on the industry, families, and community health and wellbeing.

We call on members to raise these concerns, start the conversation with their communities, and with elected and local members highlighting the consequences of the loss of a major grants pool that directly funds more than \$4 million of recreational programs annually.

*The majority of community sport and recreation organisations rely on funding managed by the Department of Sport and Recreation. A portion of their funding is made available through the Sports Wagering Account (SWA) and Sports Lotteries Account (SLA). In 2013/14 the following sums were made available for the development of sport and recreation.*

SLA Allocation	\$9.712 million*
SWA Allocation	\$4.584 million
Total	\$14.296 million

\*A total of \$14.8 million is allocated through SLA however the amount reflected is about what is available for sports once funding of \$5.088 million has been provided to WAIS.

### **Our response:**

PLA WA, in conjunction with WA Sports Federation and other peak recreation industry bodies will highlight the potential loss of funding to the recreation sector if the current Sports Wagering Account is lost.

A promotional campaign highlighting the beneficiaries of the Sports Wagering Account will be initiated. The beneficiaries include:

- Club Development Officers in regional local governments
- Community Participation Funding
- Sports Club Equipment purchases
- Inclusive Sports Funding Scheme
- Recreation Industry Leaders Organisational Sustainability Program
- Royal Life Saving Society – Water Safety Strategy inc CaLD
- WASF – Clubs Responsible Management of Alcohol Project
- *Your Move* Programs and many others.

It is likely that the beneficiaries of these programs have little or no idea of the source of funding and the longer-term implications of the loss of the SWA.

#### **What can you do?**

- Be fully aware of the source of all grant funds which provide community recreational programs.
- Take formal steps to publically acknowledge those sources and ensure the funding provider is made aware of the direct and indirect impact/benefits to the community should those funds be lost.
- Discuss and argue that the retention of ongoing funding is critical to operational and developmental capacity.
- Acknowledge that the sport and recreation industry makes a significant contribution to improving, not only broad-based community health and wellbeing, but also
- stimulates the local economy, improving community safety and the delivery of a general sense of satisfaction with where people live.

As the representative body of the industry PLA WA will continue to raise awareness and provide a platform of evidence for the inherently unique contribution that SWA funded organisations and programs make to the social, environmental and economic fabric of our communities.

Support us by sharing your story on how SWA funding has helped your program, activity, or organisation. Email our office on [eoplawa@parksleisure.com.au](mailto:eoplawa@parksleisure.com.au) or contact **Leith Fradd** on **0451 993526**.