

WYONG RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB GROUP

Board Statement – Wyong Rugby League Club Group issued 11/05/2020

As you are aware, we are all experiencing unprecedented difficulties on many fronts because of the coronavirus crisis, and the Wyong Rugby League Club Group is no exception. From the day that pubs and clubs were directed to close their doors, our income dropped by one hundred percent, and so our losses to date have been significant, with more to come. With no income but certain fixed costs still in place we need to manage our cash carefully as, most critically, we have no idea of when we will be able to open again. Once that day comes times will continue to be tough for the foreseeable future. We represent eight clubs and the communities they support within our group and it is certainly up to us to help them survive. There are predictions that forty to fifty percent of clubs may never open again. We don't want to be in that category.

To this end the board of directors has made the difficult decision to suspend all non-essential expenditure in the current climate. We have for many years prided ourselves on being a major contributor to our community by employing over three hundred people, as well as providing an income for our caterers and their many employees and supporting many local suppliers and tradespeople. We donate to over thirty local sporting organisations including local rugby league clubs, as well as many charities and community groups.

Included in the groups to whom we have suspended funding is our own senior rugby league operation. The cost involved in continuing the programme on a level we have provided in the past is both unsustainable and unjustifiable in the current climate. There have been suggestions that we could ask the players to play for no payment. Such payments are only part of the cost structure around rugby league so the decision was taken to withdraw from the proposed abbreviated competition this year and hopefully come back in a more stable position to provide for our rugby league programme next year and into the future. Every one of our board members is a former Wyong player and/or official so our decision was extremely difficult, but nonetheless unanimous. To be fair to all our beneficiaries we felt that this was the only decision we could make.

No doubt many club boards are experiencing the same difficult decision making that we are. While we know that not everybody will agree with our decisions, we trust that our members will understand that these decisions have been made with the future well being of our clubs and our members in mind.

Yours faithfully,



Bob Pettiford
Board Chairman
Wyong Rugby League Club Group

