

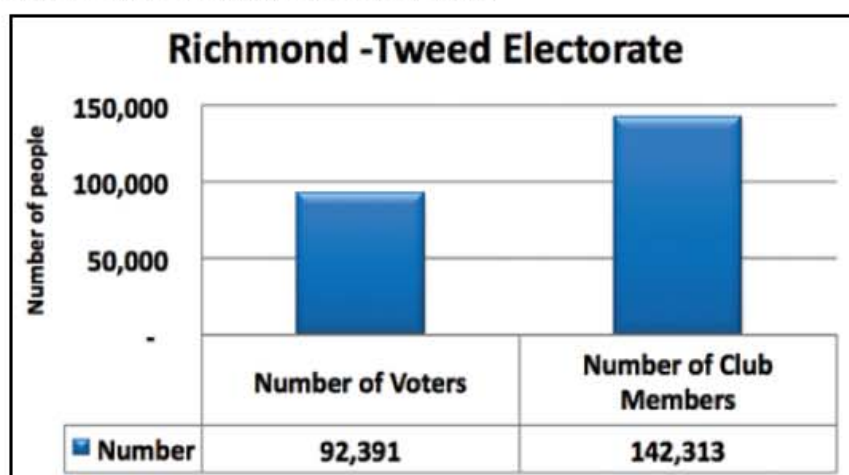
CLUBS VITAL FOR THE TWEED

CLUBS, THEIR MEMBERS AND THEIR STAFF ARE VITAL FOR THE TWEED

That was the message that was delivered to Local Federal Member, Justine Elliot, when a delegation of club managers met with her in her office recently.

The delegation explained to Ms Elliot the significant role that clubs play in our community and presented her with the following information that we encourage all members to read.

In the Richmond – Tweed electorate there are 92,391 people enrolled to vote. There are 31 clubs in the Richmond – Tweed electorate from Byron Bay in the south, to Tweed Heads in the north, and travelling through Murwillumbah to Nimbin in the west. These 31 clubs have 142,313 members enjoying the range of services and sporting facilities that are on offer.



SPORTING FACILITIES MAINTAINED BY RICHMOND – TWEED CLUBS

There are 47 bowling greens scattered throughout the electorate, with most towns and villages having at least one bowls club. The six largest towns in the Tweed electorate have an 18 hole golf course. Two clubs provide swimming pools for the members and public to enjoy. Whilst the rugby leagues clubs in four towns maintain football ovals for the junior and senior teams to enjoy, as well as a host of other sports and activities.

The cost of maintaining these sporting facilities by the clubs of the Richmond – Tweed electorate is estimated to be around \$4.5 million per annum.

- Who will maintain these facilities if the clubs cannot?
- What will the people do for sport and activity if these sporting facilities are not maintained and lost to the local community?

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED BY RICHMOND – TWEED CLUBS

There are 1,130 employees directly working in clubs of the Richmond – Tweed electorate. The total wages paid to employees of these clubs in 2010 was over \$44 million.

There are also many local businesses providing supplies and services to these clubs that would either shut down or be forced to wind their businesses back if clubs cannot continue to operate because of changes to gaming laws.

The Richmond – Tweed electorate has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country and cannot afford to lose jobs.

- What other employment opportunities are there in the Richmond – Tweed electorate if clubs are forced to reduce employment or close?
- If there are fewer employment opportunities, won't these people have to leave their homes and the Richmond – Tweed electorate to look for work elsewhere?

COMMUNITY DONATIONS MADE BY RICHMOND – TWEED CLUBS

The clubs of the Richmond – Tweed electorate made donations to local charities and community organisations of over \$2 million last year. Many of these local charities, sporting clubs, emergency services and other voluntary organisations that do such wonderful work in the Richmond – Tweed electorate, would not exist without the support from clubs.

- Who will provide funding to these organisations?
- What will happen to the people who rely on these organisations and charities for support?

MANDATORY PRE-COMMITMENT

The Federal Labour Government plans to introduce mandatory pre-commitment technology by 2014 in what they claim is an attempt to protect problem gamblers.

HOW MANY PROBLEM GAMBLERS ARE THERE IN THE RICHMOND – TWEED ELECTORATE?

Based on the findings from the Prevalence of Problem Gambling report there were 0.5% of the adult population of NSW with a serious gambling problem. If this statistic is extrapolated across the adult population of the Richmond – Tweed electorate of 92,391, this would equate to only 460 adults having a serious gambling problem. This problem for these people is not guaranteed to be cured by introducing a mandatory pre-commitment scheme for Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs).

MANDATORY PRE-COMMITMENT – WHAT IS THE \$ COST TO THE RICHMOND – TWEED CLUBS?

The initial set-up costs for the mandatory pre-commitment technology was suggested to be approximately \$5,000 per (EGM) although industry sources believe that the actual cost will be much higher and this cost is to be paid for by your club, no matter how big or small your club might be.

If it is assumed that the cost to upgrade an EGM is \$5,000 each, the total cost to clubs of the Richmond – Tweed electorate will be around \$12 million. No Richmond – Tweed club can afford this upgrade and nearly all would have to borrow money to do so.

It has been proven in other jurisdictions in other parts of the world that revenue from EGMs drop considerably when a pre-commitment scheme was introduced.

Should a pre-commitment scheme be introduced by the Government, the expected loss in revenue per annum by Richmond – Tweed clubs is set out below:

30% Revenue Lost From Voluntary Pre-Commitment <i>This loss occurred in other jurisdictions</i>	\$27,974,905
40% Revenue Lost From Mandatory Pre-Commitment <i>This was the loss forecast by Wilkie</i>	\$37,299,873
50% Revenue Lost From Mandatory Pre-Commitment <i>This is the loss predicted by ClubsNSW</i>	\$46,624,842

- How are the clubs to sustain themselves and continue to operate with large upfront costs to implement a pre-commitment scheme and then suffer such staggering drops in revenue?

Clubs are committed to the protection of people who feel they need help with gambling or alcohol related issues, and with the support of local counselling services, fully supported self-exclusion programs are successfully operated and monitored at your Club and throughout all clubs in NSW.

Your Club like so many across NSW, forms a vital part of our community, not only from an economic sense, but as a place where we can come together and meet with our friends. Where we can play the sport we love, where we can enjoy a good value meal and where our elderly citizens can safely visit on their own and enjoy an affordable and friendly social outing. How do you place a value on that?

And we do ask our politicians where would we go if clubs did not exist? It's OUR CLUB and don't take away our enjoyment of it.

