



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Members Endorse *seagulls* Commercial Opportunities at AGM.

Members of the *norths* Group have overwhelmingly endorsed the recommendations of the Board to declare areas of the *seagulls*' club site as non-core areas to maximize revenue opportunities, when put to the floor at the clubs' Annual General Meeting held last night.

*norths* Group President, Barry Alliston presided over the meeting across both club sites utilizing a telephone video link giving members at Tweed Heads and North Sydney to opportunity to hear and respond to the resolution and finally to cast their vote.

Prior to the reading of the resolution members were comprehensively taken through the current dire circumstances faced by many clubs where some high profile venues have recently suffered losses in the millions. Members were then presented with a financial overview for *seagulls* and *norths*, reinforcing the Boards commitment to decisive and financially sound policy for future strategic direction to best place *seagulls* for survival well into future.

President Barry Alliston said, *"There is a need to act now and put in place the operational tools with which we need to diversify. By looking at opportunities for areas of the seagulls club site we place ourselves in a position to reduce our reliance on traditional income derived from gaming and present our product before a broader potential audience"*

Since 2004 and the introduction of the State Governments poker machine tax increase the *norths* Group of clubs have seen the group pay an additional \$9.2 million denying members desperately needed funds to improve services across both sites, reduce debt and support the local community.

Members were advised that, *"We now pay an additional \$65,000 every week in state taxes across our group and unless we diversify our income streams our future would be very bleak indeed. The size of seagulls is some four times bigger than it needs to*

*be to service the membership and the current entertainment proposal we are considering provides income and most importantly improves the offering to members in many ways ”*

Whilst a lone member voiced concerns about the resolution, the club executive provided in depth and comprehensive responses to those concerns and this followed members who spoke in favour of the resolution being carried.

When the resolution was put to members by President Barry Alliston, it was adopted almost unanimously providing a platform for the *norths* Group of Directors to move forward with current and future negotiations. *“We congratulate members of the norths Group on this decision and I want to assure members that their best interests will always be at the fore of our planning and decisions”* added Mr Alliston.

- Ends -

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