

CORRECTED TRANSCRIPT

RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Inquiry into country football

Seymour –14 April 2004

Members

Mr M. P. Crutchfield
Mr B. P. Hardman
Mr C. Ingram
Mr J. M. McQuilten

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Chair: Mr B. P. Hardman
Deputy Chair: Mr C. Ingram

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Executive Officer: Ms K. Murray
Research Officer: Dr V. Koops

Witness

Mr G. Kurzman, vice-president, Kilmore Football Club.

Mr KURZMAN — Graeme Kurzman is my name. I am the vice-president of the Kilmore Football Club. My address is 'Glenalvie', Stotts Road, Wandong.

The meeting today basically refers to the country football league. The Kilmore Football Club is affiliated with the Riddell District Football League, which is basically to the north-west of the Melbourne metropolitan area. We are betwixt and between, I suppose you could say. We are part of metro Melbourne football and on the outskirts of country football. We would like to see this forum include football in the outskirts of Melbourne, or however you like to put it. We would like you to include that league into your inquiries, because we are the ugly ducking. We do not come under country football, and we do not come under Melbourne metro football, but we are recognised as Melbourne metro on the outskirts of the Melbourne metro leagues. We are in the same sort of situation as country football. We are finding it extremely hard, and when I say 'we', I mean us as a club in particular, but the Riddell District Football League in general. I just make the comment that we would like to be included.

The CHAIR — I agree entirely with that.

Mr McQUILTEN — Since you launched it there.

Mr KURZMAN — That is right, since you launched it at our club.

The CHAIR — We certainly mean country football, and not just Victorian country football leagues.

Mr KURZMAN — I picked up the comment you made before, Denis, when you asked about having trouble finding trainers and paying them et cetera. Is petrol money and a meal voucher payment — if you could find them? I could go in deeper about that sort of thing, but basically what I am after is recognition of the overall view of football in general in rural areas.

Mr INGRAM — You have listened to some of the evidence here today.

Mr KURZMAN — Absolutely.

Mr INGRAM — Is your club facing similar experiences as have been represented here? Obviously you are not aware of all the other evidence that has been presented to the committee, but it is along the lines of what has been said here.

Mr KURZMAN — Absolutely.

Mr INGRAM — I am sure the committee will accept submissions further on, but are the issues that have been raised here similar to the issues experienced in your area?

Mr KURZMAN — Right across the board. Everything we do in and around the club is community based. We get no other moneys except for sponsorship that comes out of the general community — chook raffles and barbeques is basically where it comes from — and I think that is general across country football. But we are in the same boat as everybody else. Just because we are close to Melbourne does not mean we get support from Melbourne. As you mentioned before, we get nothing from TAC or anything like that. Nothing comes to us as far as training or incentives — nothing. We are just there because we love our sport as a community involvement.

The CHAIR — Thank you very much, Graeme. If Kilmore Football Club would like to make some specific points, it could put a submission into the committee as well.

Mr KURZMAN — Thank you.

Witness withdrew.