

BACKGROUND TO BOWLING GREEN ISSUES AT KARRATHA BOWLING CLUB

This letter is on behalf of the committee club members and interested community members in support of the application to renew the current grass surface with a shaded synthetic surface. At the Karratha Bowling Club

BACKGROUND.

The bowling green at KBC is just over thirty years old the normal life expectancy of any bowling green is around twenty two to twenty five years old. Despite the efforts from the City of Karratha green keeping crew and a few hardy volunteers. Over the last four to five years the green has deteriorated to a state where half of the rinks are unplayable.

Four or five years ago this green which overlooks the ocean and is in a beautiful spot was regularly used by many members of the local community.

We would have around ninety to a hundred local people play scroungers on a Friday evening under lights, a playground was installed in keeping with our family friendly venue and we would have many family's take advantage of this beautiful location and participate in fun games of bowls. While we provided snacks and refreshments.

We had a fun inclusions programme, and a well-attended junior programme involving the local schools.

Our corporate bowling groups from local companies had three leagues and thirty six teams of up to six people each drawn again from the local community.

We held an annual carnival that was the envy of many rural clubs and attracted visitors from all over the state.

WHERE ARE WE NOW

With the rapid drop in green quality over the last few years due mostly to its age we have had to close three greens and this has affected many of these events.

- We have had to drop our inclusions programme over concerns with trip hazards and patches and bumps and holes in our green.
- Friday night scroungers is often unattended a good night is if five people turn up.
- We have cancelled our school programmes as we have limited greens available and some have to be kept for club members to practice on.
- Our venue is now mostly empty or poorly attended by community members who are not club members and many of our members have left and joined Dampier, Karratha's nearest neighbour that has a bowling green.
- Community functions at our venue have also dropped off dramatically
- Our carnival numbers were down and many complaints about the standard of the surface were received this year and quite a few visitors have indicated that they won't return unless the surface is improved.

- Our corporate groups have dwindled to thirteen teams this year from thirty six teams a few years ago, with some indication that if we can't improve the surface we may lose some more teams.
- Our own membership has dropped each year over the last five years as the green deteriorated
- As a club we are the current holders of the Pilbara league pennant, but have been recently advised that Dampier are considering writing to bowls WA to complain that our bowling surface is not up to the standard where we should be allowed to hold pennant events. This is despite the City of Karratha and some of our volunteers putting a concerted effort into trying to keep this green up to a playable standard.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE

- If we have a shaded artificial surface, we could reinstate our schools programme and utilise the green even in the hot summer months.
- We have volunteers who will reinstate and support the inclusions programme
- Our members will get behind a drive to see more community and local corporate involvement
- We will attract more numbers to our annual carnival and other special events
- We will organise and advertise family fun days at weekends.
- We will promote healthy activities and community functions at our venue
- We will once again be able to provide our local community with a sporting venue that they can be proud to attend where their children can play safely.

Many other sporting venues have been supported and developed in and around Karratha over the last few years while we have been self-sufficient and improved our venue and public areas each year through fundraising events and sponsorship. We are not in a position to fund a new green and believe that we are now at a crucial point where if we lose anymore members, or our surface is declared as unsuitable for competition then the club that we love and has historically been a vibrant community and family centre will cease to be fit for purpose and will require many years to bring it back to its glory days if action is not taken now.

Conversely if a new bowling green is installed the committee members and friends of the club believe that this will reinvigorate our volunteers and community members and provide the catalyst to generate a sustained drive to see the community use this venue. The committee has committed to putting renewed efforts into making our club a bustling community centre once more.

Thank you for your time in considering the above.

Bill Messer.



On behalf of The President and Committee of The Karratha Bowling Club