



28 September 2011

Willetton Sports Club May Be Forced To Close

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton and Patron of the Willetton Sports Club expressed his grave concern that the club may be forced to close.

The Club, based in Burrendah Boulevard, Willetton, had asked the City of Canning to underwrite a business loan of \$256,000 for urgently needed renovation but the Council voted against that proposal at its meeting on Tuesday 27 September 2011.

"As Patron of the Willetton Sports Club, I have worked closely with the Club's Chairman John Tidman and his team over the last 18 months to try to put it on a sounder footing. They have done a remarkable job under difficult circumstances and I congratulate them on behalf of the community for their efforts," said Dr Nahan.

"But the task has been too large. The Club, which is a Council-owned asset, has been allowed to run down over the decades and the Council has been fully aware of this. The Club needs revitalisation not closure."

"I am disappointed the Council has chosen not to underwrite the loan but whatever the Council does, it must keep this valuable community asset open. There are a number of options available to Council."

"Last year, over 30,000 people used the Club's facilities. It is home to 5,000 members and over the next 18 months, it has 1,200 bookings for its facilities. That is why it cannot be allowed to close and why it is imperative that the Council takes this matter seriously and injects substantial funding into it."

"There simply isn't anything else like it in the area and it would hurt the community enormously not to have this local asset available. I am willing to work with the Council and to do whatever it takes to ensure that this facility is revitalised and that it continues to play a pivotal role in our community for years to come."

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