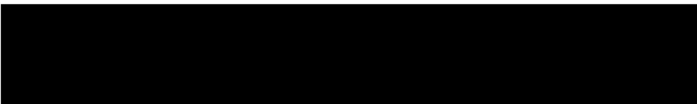


David Marsh



General

David Marsh

Wed, 27 Mar, 5:44 am

**Independent Planning Commission Submission by David Marsh – Group CEO St Johns Park Bowling Club
Group 27th March 2019**

Good morning, my name is David Marsh and I'm the Group CEO of the St Johns Park Bowling Club Group (SJPBCG). SJPBCG currently operates (3) registered Club venues throughout NSW. The main Club being SJPBC is located in the Fairfield LGA and been in operation for over 65 years. It is currently ranked in the top 20 registered clubs in NSW and rated as the largest lawn bowls Club in Australia if not the world. The SJPBCG also operates a significant investment property portfolio and currently has net assets worth \$100 million.

The Club is highly recognised in the community and is focused on meeting community expectations as well and makes significant financial contributions to the establishment of much needed community facilities. The SJPBCG employs over 200 staff and is a leading preferred employer in the industry. The Group has 44,000 members.

The SJPBCG also operates the local Wallacia Bowling Club. In 2016, Wallacia Bowling Club was financially unsustainable and SJPBCG ensured that this important community establishment continued to trade. The Wallacia Bowling Club is still trading today, giving local community members a place to meet and enjoy bowls in a safe and friendly environment.

Becoming aware that the Panthers Wallacia Club (formerly the Wallacia Golf Club) was up for amalgamation, the SJPBCG made it a priority to attempt the keep this community based Club in operation.

The Panthers Wallacia Club has had (2) two different operators over the past (10) ten years and has not been profitable any of those years. The Panthers Group has chosen to part ways with the Club due to the financial instability of the Club which is currently losing in the vicinity of \$200,000 per annum. This status cannot continue.

In an effort to continue the operation of the club at this current time and into the future, and to keep the golf course itself operational, the SJPBCG has partnered with the Catholic Cemeteries Trust being the current owners of the property. Our decision to partner with the Catholic Cemeteries Trust was an easy decision for the SJPBCG. Our success over time has been built around involving ourselves with reputable and respected business partners. Our partnership with the Catholic Cemeteries Trust is no different.

With the successful approval of the Catholic Cemeteries Trust Development Application, the SJPBCG is confident it can move forward and provide the local area with community facilities it deserves including the continuation of the golf course. The golf club has a rich and long tradition in the local community. The golf club has seen many local volunteers spend endless hours contributing to the ongoing operation of the Club.