

Mr Troy Green
General Manager
Tweed Shire Council
Murwillumbah Administration Office, Civic and Cultural Centre
10-14 Tumbulgum Road
Murwillumbah
NSW 2484

Sent via email: tgreen@tweed.nsw.gov.au

8th May 2019

Dear Mr Green

Re: Interest Free Loan – Piggabeen Sports Complex Multi-Purpose Facility

I write to request consideration by Tweed Shire Council and the Sports Advisory Committee for the provision of an interest free loan to the Tweed Heads Seagulls Rugby League Football Club to enable our club to fully fund the build of stage one of our multipurpose facility at Piggabeen Sports Complex.

Tweed Heads Seagulls is a semi-professional rugby league football club and we play in the Queensland Rugby League Queensland Cup (QC) competition. We are the only NSW team in the competition and play our home games at Piggabeen Sports Complex, which we recently signed a five year, 'priority allocation', licence agreement for.

The primary purpose of the multi-purpose facility is to support the introduction of a Women's Rugby League which includes two female (priority) change rooms, gymnasium, storerooms, public and disabled toilets (Stage 1). In addition we will construct a roof over the concrete area and a scorers box (stage 2).

The total cost for the build of stage one is \$561753.94 (ex GST). In September 2018 we secured a \$300,000 grant from the NSW Government Infrastructure Grants, in March this year received confirmation of an additional \$100,000 funding from Queensland Rugby League (QRL) towards the facility, leaving a shortfall of \$161,753.94 to complete stage 1.

We are writing to request an interest free loan from Tweed Shire Council for \$200,000 to cover the shortfall and, to allow for contingencies and, request consideration for this to be repaid over a 10 year period.

Due to the introduction of Women's Rugby League at Piggabeen this season, it is imperative that construction can commence as soon as possible to enable the women to play on the same day as the men's teams in the 2020 season. It is also worth noting that \$300,000 funding from the State Government is available for two years.

Tweed Seagulls financial position is solid and we will make our financial accounts available as required to provide confidence to Council that we are in a position to repay the loan.

Is it possible to take this request to the Sports advisory committee for consideration at the earliest possible opportunity – I would be happy to come and present to the committee to outline our vision and plans for Piggabeen.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information. I can be reached at paul.stephenson@seagullsclub.com.au or at 0421 961 190.

Kind regards

Paul Stephenson

CEO

Tweed Heads Seagulls RLFC

Background on Tweed Heads Seagulls and The Multi-Purpose Facility

Tweed Heads Seagulls is a semi-professional rugby league football club and we play in the Queensland Rugby League Queensland Cup (QC) competition. We are the only NSW team in the competition.

Our purpose is to create sustainable pathways and opportunities for rugby league players to play at the highest level of rugby league possible. We are an official feeder club to the Gold Coast Titans National Rugby League (NRL) team and the only official pathway in Northern NSW for players to get into the NRL.

A primary goal for Seagulls is to win the Queensland Cup and play in front of large crowds - delivering strong on-field performances is the best way to do this. We want to be THE club the Northern NSW community follow and strive to be involved in – as a player, supporter, volunteer, sponsor or partner.

Key to our success will be our ability to offer pathways for more players from the local community to get involved in Rugby League with view to becoming Seagulls, and potentially NRL players. To support this the plan focusses on engendering a high performance culture to provide greater opportunities for on field success.

A key focus of this is to build elite sporting facilities and one of our priority objectives is to turn Piggabeen into a regional sporting hub for use by male and female sportspeople of all ages from multiple groups including senior and junior rugby league. The multipurpose facility will allow us to take a big step towards this goal.

The primary reasons for building this facility are to support the introduction of women's rugby league and to provide high quality training, playing and spectating facilities for the community.

Women's RL is the fastest growing sector of the game with over 190,000 girls and women participating and growth of 30% in 2016 and 2017. All major RL bodies in Australia and our region are developing or implementing Women's RL programs and the NRL has invested significant funds into the women's game. We want to be 'trailblazers'/'early adopters' of the women's game because we know that our community will embrace it. Tweed's demographics – particularly the high numbers of people from working class, indigenous and CALD backgrounds positions Seagulls well to do this.

In March 2019 we commenced the Seagull's Women's Rugby League program, having secured funding from a major sponsor and the services of New Zealand Women's Rugby League national coach Kelvin Wright to coach the team. For sustainable women's competition it's important to provide the same opportunities male players receive and as other codes have done and the female change rooms will allow us to promote, recruit for and field competitive women's teams and tournaments.