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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NEW GUIDELINES STRENGTHEN CLUB COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

The NSW Government has published new guidelines which will enable registered clubs to provide an additional \$90 million over four years to local communities across the State.

Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing and Minister for the Arts, George Souris, said the guidelines implement the new ClubGRANTS scheme, delivering major benefits to the community, sporting, charitable, health and welfare sectors.

“In August last year, Parliament passed legislation to provide registered clubs with much-needed relief from gaming machine tax hikes to strengthen their future viability and enable them to increase community support,” Mr Souris said.

“The new ClubGRANTS scheme increases the tax rebate for registered clubs from 1.5 per cent to 1.85 per cent of gaming machine profits over \$1 million for community development and support expenditure.

“A new Statewide ClubGRANTS Fund has also been established which sees a further 0.4 per cent of a club’s gaming machine profit that would otherwise be paid in tax be used to fund large-scale sport, health and community infrastructure projects.

“As part of these changes, new guidelines have been introduced to implement the many benefits of this scheme including:

- Allowing clubs to claim contributions to professional sport (including leagues club contributions to the NRL) that are not player or coach payments;
- Enabling funds to be directed towards a club’s core activities such as sport, golf course and bowling green maintenance, and RSL and veterans’ welfare;
- Establishing a new ClubGRANTS Fund Committee comprising club and government officials to consider funding applications and monitor and evaluate grant expenditure; and
- Permit clubs to claim a proportion of their gaming machine tax rebate for funds provided to assist victims of natural disasters within a year of the occurrence.

“These new guidelines, which carry over many of the benefits of the former Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme, allow clubs to use these funds for a greater range of purposes and benefits.

“They also define the type of projects that could benefit from the new Statewide ClubGRANTS Fund including new or upgraded sporting fields and grandstands,

community health centres, and facilities for youth, aged care, emergency services and parks and recreation.

“The guidelines also ensure consideration is given to funding allocations for projects benefiting Indigenous, regional and remote, disadvantaged, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

“Registered clubs provide major social and economic benefits to local communities across the State including high-quality facilities and services, jobs and financial support for community and sporting groups.

“These changes will continue the proud tradition of the club movement providing support for a wide range of community benefits.

“The Liberals and Nationals are committed to ensuring the future viability of registered clubs to strengthen their valuable contribution to this State.”

**Media contact: Norm Lipson 0467 734 679**