

To: The Manly Daily, 10 March 2010

Subject: Fair allocation of funds

I refer to M Covey's letter claiming that G Redwood's comments about "Rugby League in decline" are not correct.

As elected representatives, I believe that we need to support all sports as much as we can, however, ratepayers' funds need to be allocated fairly and equitably.

The figures from last year as to participation of northern beaches residents in particular sports are as follows:

Soccer - 17,200
Netball - 4,000
Softball - 3,000
Rugby Union - 2,600
Cricket - 2,400
Rugby League - 2,200
Baseball - 800
AFL - 500
Touch football - 300
Frisbee - 50

I am advised that Soccer had its Grading recently and its membership has actually increased for 2010.

At Cromer Park, Soccer has spent \$2 million of its own funds to build Grandstands and install lighting. Over the last two years and for the next three years Soccer is contributing to all northern beaches Councils some \$350-\$400K per year of its own funds to fast track upgrades to lighting at fields.

Also through the Sporting Union levies Soccer contributes approximately \$100k per year as well to Councils.

Contrast the millions of dollars the amateur organisation of Soccer has contributed and continues to contribute compared to the \$350k the privately owned Sea Eagles that contribute \$350k pa and have some players paid over \$100k a year and I believe any fair and reasonable person can see the inequality.

Soccer has been crying out for years for a fair allocation of funding. They have acted responsibly, with respect to ratepayers' funds and sought to contribute as much money as possible so as not to be a burden on the public purse. I believe in view of Soccer being our community's most popular sport it is time it receives a fair allocation of public funding.

I will continue to advocate for fair, equal and efficient allocation of ratepayers' money.

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM