

Premiers 1909, 1912, 1914, 1915, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1927, 1937, 1939, 1948, 1951,
1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1970,
1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008

PORT FOOTBALL AND COMMUNITY SPORTING CLUB INC

ABN 65 671 269 219

P.O. BOX 209
PORT PIRIE SA
5540



Phone 08 86323866 Fax 86334904 Website portfc.com.au
Email secretary@portfc.com.au Mobile 0418834427

To: Editor Port Pirie Recorder
16th January 2013

The Port Football & Community Sporting Club expresses great concern over the Port Pirie Regional Council's decision to increase costs for sport in Port Pirie. Our Club does acknowledge a proposal for a significant drop in our rates under the Council's new sport policy but this by no way alleviates our concern. We also acknowledge that we would like to host SGL football at our oval but once more this does not alleviate our concerns over the councils handling of football.

Whilst many council's in the state and the state government are spending large amounts of money on sport facilities and promoting sport our Council is doing the opposite. New sporting facilities have been built or are in being built at Gladstone, Jamestown, Port Augusta, Streaky Bay and Kimba plus the State Government's \$500 million redevelopment of Adelaide Oval.

Our council is instigating a user pays system for all sport in Port Pirie which will eventually see football pay \$27,000 a year for the right to use Memorial Oval. Also long term the council has indicated their preferred option is to move football from Memorial Oval.

Whilst a lot of councils spend money to promote sport with its health and social benefits our council is looking to cut back support dramatically. One wonders what the social implications will be if there are less people playing sport.

The playing of football at Memorial Oval is just not about the Club's and players but it is also about the many thousands of family and supporters who visit Memorial Oval during a season. Many of these are rate payers and it is most likely that the rates paid by these people would be a significant part of the council's income, maybe in excess of a million dollars. These people deserve the right to good facilities to either play or watch sport, \$27,000 is a lot of money to football but a very small percentage of the council's budget. We believe there are many areas in a multi million dollar budget where the council could make significant savings.

Our Club operates an oval and we are fully aware of the costs involved in running a complex like Memorial Oval. The Port Football & Community Sporting Club like the Council look to cut costs or increase income to help alleviate the costs of maintaining our oval and we believe a realistic increase in charges by the council can be justified but not the outrageous increases

Major Sponsor – Hunter Financial Services and HFG Lending Services

Sponsors: Pisani Accountants & Business Advisors

TJ's Pirie Gourmet Meats - Mick Tattoli Mensland – West End

Pirie Signs & Designs – Food Plus



HUNTER
FINANCIAL
SERVICES

**Premiers 1909, 1912, 1914, 1915, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1927, 1937, 1939, 1948, 1951,
1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1970,
1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008**

implemented.

The Council as far as we are aware has not indicated what the funds they raise through the increases will be used for. Will they be taken up in general revenue or will they be specifically earmarked for improvements to Memorial Oval?

In regards to junior sport we are astounded that families of children whose sport are unable to cover the councils increases will now have to pay for using council sporting facilities. These families pay rates for specific reasons which include councils providing recreational and sporting facilities for all members of the community to use, generally free of charge or minimal cost.

Our Club has assisted the council immensely over the years by providing a sporting complex for the community of Port Pirie. We have hosted at no charge for the council numerous sports at the Port Pirie Masters Games. Also many years ago we saved the council many tens of thousands of dollars by instigating and allowing the council to place a major Port Pirie storm water project underground on our property adjacent to Esmond Road. We did this because we are all part of the community of Port Pirie and it was the right thing to do by the council. This spirit of being part of the community is something the current council appears to have moved away from.

Our Club supports all the other Sporting Associations and Clubs in the region with their endeavours to have Council reconsider their decision to increase costs associated with the use of Public facilities.

Midge Johnson
President
Port Football & Community Sporting Club

Major Sponsor – Hunter Financial Services and HFG Lending Services
Sponsors: Pisani Accountants & Business Advisors
TJ's Pirie Gourmet Meats - Mick Tattoli Mensland – West End
Pirie Signs & Designs – Food Plus

