

Club amalgamation

Notes prepared for Sub Branch Members by David Kindon

Dear Sub Branch Member,

It is vital that Sub Branch members are aware of the details and the implications for the Sub Branch of discussions underway to amalgamate the RSL Club Ltd within the MIBC.

After you have read this Fact Sheet please make your views known to the Sub Branch Executive and, more importantly to the Board of the RSL Club Ltd.

If you need additional information about the issues raised here, please contact me on 0417 079 747



Doug Beaumont
Sub Branch President
14 December 2013

How it will affect us

From what we know about the MoU some things have become clear:

- Whilst the RSL Club initiated negotiations, they are occurring in a context where the MIBC is the "parent" and the RSL Club is the "child". In any amalgamation the RSL Club will become part of a larger MIBC.
- For a period of up to 5 years from approval of the amalgamation the needs of the Sub Branch will be taken into account at each venue.
- It is hoped that the fixed assets of the RSL Club Ltd will be transferred to the new entity.
- Current staff at the RSL Club have been told their jobs are safe.

Don't let amalgamation happen by default through Member apathy and inaction. Once signed off the Club will eventually cease to exist.

Some Questions

Won't the amalgamation create a monopoly of Club services with reduced competition and higher prices?

Will the absence of the usual dual Club system affect the travel plans of the many thousands of visitors who have "adopted" one Club or the other?

Although existing jobs are apparently guaranteed, with attrition will not local job opportunities shrink as the new Club seeks to reduce costs?

Won't power charges fall by 9% when the Carbon Tax is removed?

"Dual" membership of both Clubs is around 75%. Won't this shrink by half as we become members of one Club?

Many businesses in town are closing. Won't the closure of the RSL Club say that Merimbula is "closed for business" and impact negatively on other businesses?

Will not the whole be smaller than the sum of its parts?

Cultural differences between the two Clubs were the causes of the Bowling Club's de-amalgamation. Won't this be the same?

What are the costs of amalgamation?

What you can do

You have an important and influential voice – use it:

- **Speak to your Sub Branch colleagues and Members of both Clubs;**
- **Send a message to the RSL Club Ltd Board.**

Ask yourself some questions:

- **What message does an amalgamation send to local businesses, local community and interstate visitors?**
- **Why reduce choice and competition between 2 viable Clubs.**