



July 31st, 2020

The Principal Research Officer
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Assembly Committee Office
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: WA Football Commission

The East Fremantle Football Club (EFFC) has been a committed member of the WA Football League (WAFL) for 122 years. Over this time, our aim as a club has been about the development of young men through the vehicle of football, in recent years this has now included women.

However, over the last 20+ years the influence of the AFL has impacted WA Football. WAFL Clubs are set up with metropolitan and country districts which have always been the delivery arm of WA football for over 50 years.

Over time the district, community and now talent have moved to a centralised model, with WAFL Clubs losing their connection with their own football communities. The delivery and administering of this have occurred through the WAFC in this centralised model.

This has created a dysfunctional environment with the stakeholders consistently at cross-purposes with each other. AFL funding is now linked to WA development programs which drives a lot of what happens within football, our focus has moved away from developing young people to now being about the next AFL player. Our focus should always be about the best interest of WA Football and the WA community.

The EFFC believes that football resources including funding should remain controlled by the WA football stakeholders and should occur through an independent Board governing football. (WAFC)

The role of the WAFC should be one of governance, funding and compliance of football. The delivery of WA football must be the role of the WAFL clubs, decisions by the governing body (WAFC) must be for the best interest of WA Football.

Each stakeholder needs to be able to sit down at the table with the governing body (WAFC) and work through the issues in the best interests of WA Football and the WA community.

Yours sincerely

Mark Stewart
President



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