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Power House Rugby Union Football Club Inc.

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21 August 2020

Budget Policy Division
Department of Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES, ACT 2600

To Whom it May Concern

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT 2020-21 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION - DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE STAN BISSET PAVILION

Power House Rugby Union Club welcomes the opportunity to make a Submission to the consultation process for the **2020-21 Pre-Budget Consultation**.

The Club applied for the recent Commonwealth Sports Infrastructure funding program and while receiving a score of 69/100 were not successful. The strong interest in sports infrastructure funding highlights the desperate need for further government support. We welcome additional funding to increase healthy community sports activity and participation.

<p>Recommendation: That the 2020-21 Commonwealth Budget commit and support the Power House Rugby Union Club for \$1 million to complete funding for the Stan Bisset Pavilion.</p>
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I am writing to you to seek your assistance and to let you know more about the development for our Stan Bisset Rugby pavilion at Albert Park in Melbourne.

Stan Bisset MC, OAM, MID was born in St Kilda, an active Lord Somers Camp and Power House Rugby Club member who was selected for the Australian national rugby team, the Wallabies in 1939. He travelled to England by ship for 6 weeks only to have war break out which resulted in the tour being cancelled. He became a military officer in the Prahran 2/14 Battalion and went on to fight in the Middle East and Kokoda. His brother Hal or "Butch" as he was known also fought in Kokoda and was shot and later died with Stan by his side. Stan survived the war and went on to live for 99 years before passing away on 5th October 2010. His story is told in the book – *Kokoda Wallaby*.

Power House Rugby Union Club has a close link with the Lord Somers Camp organisation and has been based at Albert Park for 85 years. When the new sports pavilions were built 25 years ago at the time of the Grand Prix, Power House Rugby Club missed out on any new facilities although they were promised they would be built when funds were available.

The Rugby Club is arguably the strongest of the Power House clubs within Lord Somers Camp and has always been a strength in Victorian rugby union. We field four senior, one women's and five junior sides. Our Club has won 11 First Grade premierships and, over the years, five Power House players have been chosen to represent Australia, one of them being Stan Bisset.

Background

Around ten years ago we started our discussions commenced to provide a change room for our women players, our Colts players who are mainly Pacific Islanders and our Senior Mens team and to move out of the unsuitable not for purpose club house. The womens team have to get changed on the sidelines as there are no change rooms, toilets or showers for them.

There are no public toilets or shelter available for spectators at the rugby grounds and anyone requiring toilets must walk 300 metres to the Middle Park Childrens playground toilets and another 300 metres back. Many older supporters who live in the City of Port Phillip and those with young children do not attend to watch games at the grounds as it is not user friendly.

The Club established a Fund under the Australian Sports Foundation and have now raised \$700,000 by ourselves. A Victorian government grant takes the total to \$1 million with a shortfall of \$1,000,000 for the \$2 million construction budget.

Tax Deductible Donations

Tax deductions for donations via the Australia Sports Foundation website:

<https://asf.org.au/projects/power-house-rugby-union-foundation/>

Please note this Submission as part of the 2020-21 Pre-Budget Submissions. If you require any other information please contact me via pavilion@powerhouserugby.com.au

Yours sincerely

C. G. Eyes

Craig Eyes
Stan Bisset Pavilion Building Committee
Power House Rugby Union Football Club Inc.