
Illawarra Venues Authority

AUDIT OPINION

The audit of the Authority's financial statements for the seven month period ended 30 June 2010 resulted in an unqualified Independent Auditor's Report.

KEY ISSUES

Dissolution of Wollongong Sportsground Trust

The *Sporting Venues Authorities Act 2008* dissolved the Wollongong Sportsground Trust (the Trust) on 30 November 2009 and established the Illawarra Venues Authority (the Authority). The change did not impact operations. The Board members of the former Trust were immediately appointed as Board members of the Authority and there were no changes to business plans, budgets, staffing, functions, objectives or rights. The Trust's liabilities and assets were transferred to the Authority on 30 November 2009.

As the Authority only came into existence on 30 November 2009, it was required to prepare financial statements for the period from that date to 30 June 2010, a seven month period. Trust operations for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 November 2009 were included in the notes to the Authority's financial statements.

New Grandstand

The Authority's goal is to become financially self sufficient and provide effectively for the maintenance and replenishment of its key assets, the WIN Entertainment Centre and WIN Stadium.

On 16 October 2009, the New South Wales Government announced it would provide \$28.9 million for the replacement of the Western Grandstand. This will allow WIN Stadium to meet national and international standards, and remain competitive in attracting significant future sporting events. Work on the new grandstand commenced in 2010 and is expected to be completed in 2012.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Authority provided the following information regarding its performance.

WIN Entertainment Centre

Year ended 30 June	2010	2009	2008
Number of events	52	55	61
Event days	54	68	85
Attendance	143,800	128,712	158,555
Average attendance per event day	2,663	1,893	1,865

Average attendance at the WIN Entertainment Centre increased by 40 per cent in 2009-10 due to a number of major music events including two concerts by PINK, and concerts by Lady GaGa, Keith Urban, Tom Jones and John Mayer.

WIN Stadium

Year ended 30 June	2010	2009	2008
Number of events	35	28	29
Event days	35	30	29
Attendance	128,294	128,974	127,082
Average attendance per event day	3,666	4,299	4,382

While the number of events increased in 2009-10, the average attendance at WIN Stadium fell by 14.7 per cent. This reflects an increase in the number of small events. Average attendance at St George Illawarra Dragons home games increased from 11,172 to 12,604 per game.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	IVA	WSGT
	Period 30/11/2009 to 30/6/2010 \$'000	Period 1/7/2009 to 30/11/2009 \$'000
Revenue	3,823	1,357
Personnel services expense	946	678
Other expenses	1,547	1,079
Profit / (Loss)	1,330	(400)
Net assets (at 30 June/November)	59,581	56,261

Revenues in the first half of 2010 were bolstered by the fact that six of the seven Dragon's games were held in this period to allow construction of the new Western Grandstand to begin later in the year.

Net assets increased primarily as a result of a revaluation of land and buildings, comprising both the Stadium and the Entertainment Centre, by \$2.0 million.

AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES

The Authority is constituted by the *Sporting Venues Authorities Act 2008*. The Authority's major objectives are to:

- maintain and improve the Authority's land
- establish and manage sporting grounds, sporting facilities and recreational facilities (whether or not on the Authority's land)
- establish and manage facilities for the purposes of sporting competitions, sports training and sports education (whether or not on the Authority's land)
- permit the use of the whole or any part of the Authority's land for activities of a sporting, recreational or community nature, including the use of that land for events and general community access
- encourage the use and enjoyment of the Authority's land by the public and clubs, associations or other bodies, where appropriate
- undertake, provide or facilitate the undertaking or provision of, commercial and retail activities and facilities on the Authority's land
- make all reasonable attempts to ensure that any new development carried out on the Authority's land accords with best practice environmental and planning standards.

The Authority is subject to the control and direction of the Minister for Sport and Recreation. For further information on the Authority refer to www.wec.org.au.