



TWEED RIVER JOCKEY CLUB LTD

PO Box 313, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

4 September 2014

Dear Tweed Shire Councilors

The Tweed River Jockey Club (Murwillumbah Racecourse) was established over 100 years ago and is a beautiful tourist attraction for the Tweed. The TRJC conducts 11 allocated Country Race Meetings annually and we operate a daily training facility to train thoroughbreds every morning from 5.00am to 9.00am. Murwillumbah racetrack is one of only 2 privately owned racecourses in NSW.

Through our training facility, race days and on-course functions the TRJC provides jobs for hundreds of local people and we are strongly involved with Community Employment agencies such as TURSA Employment & Training, through which we provided over 40 Work Experience placements in the last financial year.

The racecourse comprises of 3 training/racing surfaces, one of which is a sand track. The sand track is used daily for track work for approximately 100 horses. For the surface to be suitable for "fast work" the sand must be watered nightly so that it is compact and firm. Loose or dry shifting sand can lead to injury and horses breaking down. To achieve a safe training surface the TRJC utilises in excess of 50 kilolitres of water from our on-site dam every night to irrigate the track.

Lack of rainfall and extensive evaporation from our dam has left our water supply seriously depleted. Over the past 2 years the TRJC has been forced to seek alternative water sources rather than rely on our on-site dam. As our local Trainers (and their staff of stable hands, track work riders, administrators, owners etc.) depend on our track work facility being operational 7 days for their businesses and livelihood, we have had no alternative than to use metered tap water to irrigate the sand track.

The cost of irrigating the track using metered water is approx. \$105 per night or \$735 weekly (@\$2.10 per kl). The Club is not in a financial position to be able to manage this expense and our attempts at receiving funding through Racing NSW's programmes such as the Country Racing Development Fund (CRDF) have not been successful.

The TRJC Board of Directors have been working towards a long term solution of the lack of access to water at the racetrack and have contacted and met with Water Management Engineers at Tweed Shire Council regarding the use

Tweed River Jockey Club Ltd

Telephone: 02 6672 3672
Mobile: 0408 627573
Fax: 02 6672 4323

ABN: 11 003 386 856
www.tweedriverjockeyclub.com.au
Email: tweedrjc@bigpond.net.au



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of the treated effluent water that runs through a pipe parallel to our track (south side) and is utilised by the Condong Sugar Mill during cane season.

Costings for the TRJC to access to the treated effluent water have been estimated to in excess of \$20k to gain the necessary regulatory and contractual approvals. The Jockey Club is unable to fund this application and is seeking Council assistance, by means of a grant, to enable the Club to gain access to use of the recycled water. We have been advised by the Racetrack Maintenance Manager for Racing NSW that the following Country Race Clubs are given access to treated effluent water through their local councils for use on their grounds:

Albury
Ballina
Coffs Harbour
Coonamble
Goulburn
Kempsey
Narrandera
Parkes
Port Macquarie
Sapphire Coast
Scone
Wellington

We are hopeful of working with Tweed Shire Council to establish a process for businesses and community groups to take advantage of the high quality water recycling plant in operation on the Tweed. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Faithfully

Bernie P Quinn OAM
CHAIRMAN, TWEED RIVER JOCKEY CLUB

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