

---

**MOTIONS ON NOTICE****AO124-19 MOTION ON NOTICE - DFA FUNDING**

**FILE NO:** 15/5/2  
**PREVIOUS MIN:**

---

Councillor Ken Dorsey has given notice that he would move the following motion at this meeting:-

***“THAT Council provide funding to the DFA (Darwin Football Association) equal to that provided to the Burnie Dockers.”***

**COUNCILLOR’S COMMENTS**

In an unprecedented action, the previous Council agreed to continue funding the Burnie Dockers following their exit from the TSL and in addition waved grounds fees for an extended period. The funding was provided to ensure the transition from the TSL did not hinder the progress of the Dockers into the future.

Funding was previously provided by the AFL for the TSL of which the Dockers received funding to assist with travel, player recruitment and loss of revenue due to the lack of “local” games. It is my understanding that the Council also contributed for similar reasons.

When returning to the NWFL many of the reasons for the funding no longer existed. The DFA has continued to support grass roots football that represents many of our outlying areas including:

- 1) South Burnie
- 2) Ridgley
- 3) Yeoman
- 4) Natone
- 5) Somerset
- 6) Queenstown
- 7) Cuprona

The DFA is the starting point for many players that ultimately play in the NWFL, TSL and for some the dream of the AFL. It is also “family”, the clubs provide family that includes comradeship, meals, transport and assistance in securing employment. The Headquarters of the DFA is located in Burnie and all administrative tasks are completed in Burnie.

As we are all painfully aware, Natone was unable to field a team this year for a combination of reasons that is becoming endemic in regional football. The reasons noted for the loss of a

club are reduced numbers, increased cost, greater strain on volunteers, greater number of opportunities, funded clubs able to entice players with greater financial incentives.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The current arrangement with the Burnie Dockers Football Club at West Park is a transitional arrangement and due to be completed at the end of the 2020 season. The arrangement was originally entered into with Burnie Dockers under Burnie Sport and Events, and the Club is currently working with Council officers to ensure it can be sustainable when the Council funding stops.

Part of the arrangement with the Dockers is that Council runs and gains the revenues from the bar at The Point to offset the contribution made to the Dockers. The proposal appears to indicate that Council would be making a contribution to the DFA, without having the benefit of revenues from the bars operated by DFA Clubs.

Council's contribution to the Dockers in the next financial year will be \$12,898. This has been allowed for in Council's budget with a focus on achieving a balanced budget. Should Council allocate funds to the DFA, there will be a need to find savings in other areas of Council.

It should also be noted that three of the seven DFA Clubs are outside of the Burnie municipality. It is not clear as to why Burnie ratepayers should be asked to support clubs as far away as Queenstown.

The Motion also mentions a number of issues facing football clubs. It is doubtful that \$1,800 per club will make any significant impact in dealing with these issues.

### **Alternative Recommendation**

***"That the information be noted"***.