



20<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Club President,

As the year draws to a close we are writing to extend a thank you to you and all of the volunteers in your club. This year has seen some significant changes for rugby in New South Wales designed to benefit the whole of our rugby community for the long term.

Parents and rugby people continue to reinforce to me how much of a wonderful rugby community we have in clubs. This is a direct reflection of our coaches and volunteers in our clubs. There is a genuine love of our game that can't be recreated in other sports and we thank you for contributing to making our game great and making this sport great for people to be involved in.

In a competitive sporting marketplace, we know the challenges our sport faces in recruiting and retaining participants, getting more funding into our sport both at the grassroots and pathways levels as well working to continue to make rugby a safe sport.

New South Wales Rugby Union has implemented some key changes designed to address the changing landscape of sport, better support our community game as well as future proof rugby. These changes include-

- The development of the Positive Rugby Foundation that so far has introduced \$350,000 into the growth of the game in NSW. These funds have enabled the appointment of two schools relationship managers as well as additional funding to regional areas using rugby as the vehicle to promote mental health awareness
- Governance reform accepted at the AGM, formally uniting the Waratahs and NSW Boards and forming advisory councils (Sydney and Country) to increase the voice affiliates have on rugby issues specially around infrastructure development, participation growth and people development (coaches, match officials and volunteers)
- A number of new safety initiatives were introduced in 2018 including: Blue Card, Size for Age and Prep to Perform aimed at safeguarding players and we appreciate your clubs support in adopting these
- An increase in the number of Community hours and visits undertaken by the Waratahs to 637 hours
- A shift towards coach and club development which will see additional resources devoted to this area in 2019
- The employment of a government relations manager to assist and support clubs in making submissions to Local, State and Federal government to support the growth and development of clubs. Pleasingly this appointment has already made progress with the recent news confirming a \$20M investment in a new home for NSW Rugby



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- An increase in female participation from 5% to 9% of our playing population with new competitions in Sydney and regional areas proving very popular
- Our development staff are meeting with all junior clubs in the off-season to review participation numbers, trends and provide recruitment and retention support

We appreciate the tireless work that you and your committee does throughout the year to promote the game as well as ensure your club runs smoothly and that all participants play in a safe and enjoyable environment. We look forward to continuing to work with all affiliates to grow and develop the game through our shared vision of Care, Connect and Unifying for the good of the game in NSW. Once again we thank you for your hard work and efforts in our sport.

Wishing you well for a restful off season a Merry Christmas and New Year and a successful 2019 season.

Yours in Rugby

Andrew Hore  
CEO of NSW Rugby Union & NSW Waratahs