



## **Statement from the Darwin Turf Club**

In response to a news story that aired via several media outlets since Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020, please find an official statement issued by the Darwin Turf Club. This statement will also be posted on the Darwin Turf Club website Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

The Darwin Turf Club (DTC) cannot comment on whether the advice Mr Leonardi provided from within his position is appropriate or not.

The DTC believed that a project of this kind would deliver a real return for the Territory economy, both through the construction phase and once completed. It could not have been done without Government assistance. The Chair of the DTC raised the idea with Ministers, Ministerial Staff and Departmental staff at every possible opportunity.

DTC and its Chairman had no reason to doubt the course suggested to it by Mr Leonardi to get the submission process going.

Once the letters had been sent, DTC management were directed to Department of Trade and Business staff to provide submissions, business plans, and further consultation, which we did.

The detailed proposal then had to be assessed and approved by Cabinet who made the final decision. The project is well underway and the grandstand is already 75% booked, mainly to visitors that will spend millions in the community over Cup week. This is the proof in the pudding that reinforces our belief that the NTG investing and expanding in successful existing events is the way forward in the recovery of Tourism and the improvement of the Territory's economic conditions.

The Board and management are always trying to improve the product and facilities associated with the Darwin Cup Carnival that has become so important to the community each and every year.

(ENDS)

### **Media Contact**

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