

Chairman's Letter from Ballymore

March 5, 2010

No doubt you are all aware of the media reports today about the proposed arrangements for the QRU and ARU to get the game back on an even keel in Queensland and position it for growth.

I can now advise that the following media statement will be issued tonight:

Statement from Queensland Rugby

The Board of Queensland Rugby met today and voted unanimously to accept a proposal from the Australian Rugby Union to assist in finding solutions to financial pressures at QRU.

Under the proposal, a five-man Special Executive Committee (SEC) comprising representatives from QRU and ARU, and chaired by ARU Managing Director and CEO John O'Neill, will be established to review and run the business.

The QRU Board has delegated its powers to the SEC.

ARU will provide financial assistance to QRU in the short-term by pre-paying scheduled grants.

"We are grateful that the ARU has been able to agree to our request for assistance and we look forward to working with them to put the ship back on an even keel," said QRU Chairman Rod McCall.

"We will now devote our energies to rebuilding the business to make it economically strong again."

Suffice to say that media talk of a "bailout" is a gross over-simplification and suggests short term, reactionary thinking. This is not correct. The problems we and our code face have been building for a number of years.

We sought interim financial assistance from the ARU in order to arrest some serious challenges that we identified late last year and to set ourselves up for future growth as part of our long term planning.

The seriousness of the situation only became fully apparent with the change of senior management late last year, when action was put in place to, firstly, stabilise the QRU and then chart a pathway to growth.

The first 90 days was devoted to building a plan for the ensuing 12 months that would make Queensland Rugby economically stable. The arrangement with the ARU achieves that.

We are now in a position to make longer term plans, in co-operation with the parent body, on issues include the future of Ballymore, a new agreement with Suncorp Stadium, player pathways, etc.

Rod McCall
Chairman

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