



Hon Bill Byrne MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Minister for Sport and Racing

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14 APR 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 30 March 2015 enclosing copies of Petition Numbers 2329-14, 2363-15, and 2364-15 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 26 March 2015.

The petitions, lodged on behalf of Bridge clubs by Elizabeth Gibson (Northern Suburbs Bridge Club), to the Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, request that the House allow Bridge to be recognised as a sport or recreation activity for the purpose of being eligible for funding under the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (the department).

In 2010, the Queensland Government department responsible for sport at the time made a decision the activity of Bridge did not comply with definitions of sport and active recreation held by the department and were therefore ineligible for funding support. Physically active recreation activities are those engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment with the primary activity requiring physical exertion, and the primary focus on human activity.

This position was later confirmed by similar definitions adopted under the National Sport and Active Recreation Framework. The department also takes guidance from the national system and the recognition process of the leading agency for sport in Australia – The Australian Sports Commission (ASC), noting that no national bridge association is currently recognised by the ASC.

The ASC has a long established definition and criteria for recognising which activities are defined as sport and which sporting bodies are recognised by the ASC as a National Sporting Organisation (NSO). The ASC defines sport as: *'A human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill which, by its nature and organisation, is competitive and is generally accepted as being a sport'*. The ASC maintains the final authority for determining if an activity meets the definition of a sport at the national level.


I understand the ASC reviewed the national recognition system and processes. The review was conducted from 2009 to 2013 and included:

- a survey of all State/Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation;
- comparison with the NSO recognition system in other countries, including UK, Canada and New Zealand;
- consultation with ASC programs/areas which have a close working relationship with NSOs; and
- consultation with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority.

I am advised these definitions remain current in 2015 and therefore the departmental position on the eligibility of Bridge is unchanged.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Mr Elliot Stein, Chief of Staff in my office, on telephone (07) 3719 7566.

Yours sincerely



The Honourable Bill Byrne MP
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Member for Rockhampton