



## Canberra Highland Society & Burns Club

*Media release*

*22 September 2016*

### **Labor's reforms boost Canberra's small clubs**

The Canberra Burns Club welcomes today's release by ACT Labor of its small and medium clubs policy.

A re-elected ACT Labor Government's proposed reforms, which include a rebate on gaming tax revenue, a new Government grant and range of regulatory reforms, would help the Burns Club diversify its business, reinvest in its community facilities and further foster the culture and heritage of Scotland.

The policy would apply to all ACT clubs, and/or groups with less than \$4m of annual gaming revenue.

Canberra Burns Club President Athol Chalmers said: "This package demonstrates ACT Labor's understanding of the challenges faced by small clubs like ours. Diversifying our business and developing new revenue streams is key to ensuring the Burns Club has a long term, sustainable business model. But achieving this objective is costly. The tax and regulatory relief being offered by ACT Labor would deliver real and significant benefits. These measures would help us ensure the Burns Club, Canberra's oldest Club, continues to serve the community and support Scottish culture, art and sports."

Mr Chalmers also congratulated ACT Labor on its willingness to engage with small and medium clubs on the issues of most concern. "This policy release is the result of the long period of constructive engagement and dialogue we have had with ACT Labor on the challenges faced by small clubs. It demonstrates what can be achieved when parties can agree on shared goals and have frank and open discussions. We urge all parties and political candidates in

this election to focus more on the practical challenges faced by small and medium clubs. Canberra's community needs a vibrant small clubs sector, and measures like those announced today will help achieve that goal."

Minister for Racing and Gaming Mick Gentleman said that from 2017-18, a re-elected ACT Labor Government would;

- Provide a Community Club Grant of \$10,000 to every small to medium club; and
- Introduce a small and medium club gaming tax rebate to allow the smaller clubs to retain 50% of their gaming tax revenue.

The full policy proposal is available at:

[http://www.actlabor.org.au/our\\_community](http://www.actlabor.org.au/our_community)

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