



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

IN A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER, RUGBY LEAGUE WAS KNOCKED DOWN.

But the game got back on its feet after COVID-19 brought a sudden halt to the season.

Here in Queensland, the game's leaders stood tall from the outset.

Through brave and innovative leadership community rugby league returned, and our men's and women's Origin teams got the opportunity to play their hearts out for fans across the state.

Together, we worked smartly to set up our game and our people for the future.

Despite the enormous challenges, there were many highlights to emerge from 2020.

Here are just a few ...



HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS

Winners of the 2020 women's Harvey Norman State of Origin match for the first time. The Maroons unearthed future stars Tarryn Aiken and Tamika Upton in a stunning performance before nearly 5000 fans on the Sunshine Coast.

A total of **547,000 viewers** watched the match, second only to the Australian Open women's tennis final as the most watched female sporting event in 2020.

547,000 VIEWERS

QUEENSLAND MAROONS

Winners of the 2020 Ampol State of Origin series after beating the New South Wales Blues 20-14 in Game III at Suncorp Stadium to claim the series 2-1. The Maroons fielded **14 debutants** throughout the three games to clinch a famous victory.

Gross viewership of the series totalled **7.5 million viewers**.

Origin broadcasts occupied three of the top six positions in 2020 across all TV programming.



STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK

Off the field, QRL delivered the Female Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan and Diversity and Inclusion Framework, as well as an innovative re-brand.



MAROON MEMBERS

QRL delivered positive experiences for its members in 2020, despite the impact COVID-19 had on game-day attendances, interstate travel and ticketing.

16,439 MEMBERS



DIGITAL

Video views **increased by 113%** across QRL platforms.

38M VIDEO VIEWS

RETURN TO PLAY

After the suspension of local sport, community rugby league clubs were buzzing again in July as participants got back on the field in line with the Return to Play COVID-Safe guidelines.

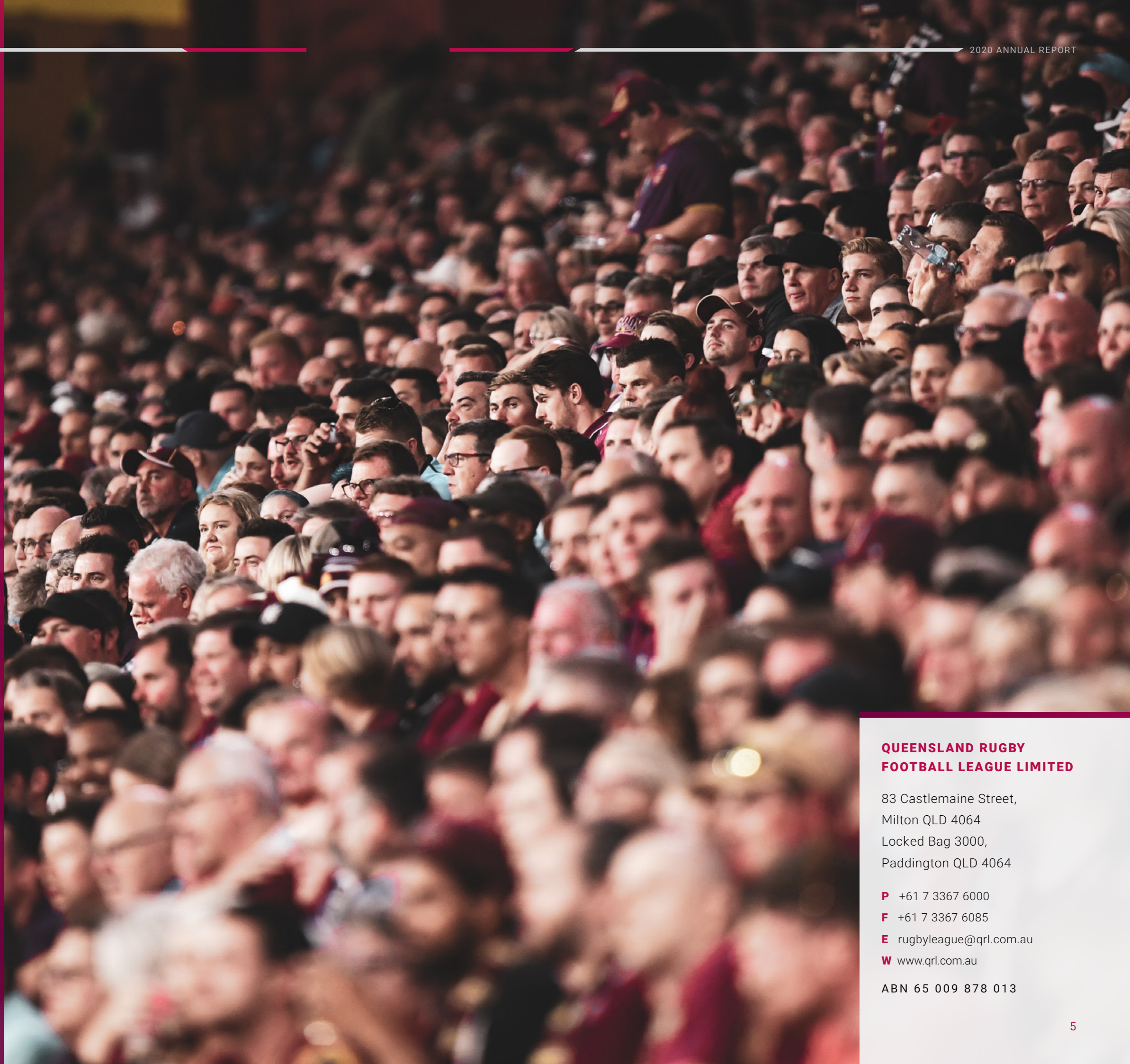
With the safety of participants paramount, visitors to community clubs were required to register their attendance using the Eva Check-in app.

More than **390,000 visitors** checked in across community venues over a 14-week period.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



As we entered 2020, few could have envisaged the extreme challenges that were about to emerge.

It certainly was a 'year like no other' for our sport and many others, hence the suitably named title of this publication.

The uncertainty was difficult for everyone, from those in leadership roles to our players, coaches, match officials, volunteers, partners and fans.

As a result, the Queensland Rugby League (QRL) faced a range of unexpected issues that impacted our ability to deliver programs, competitions and events.

A calm and rational response was needed from our game's leaders, who not only did that with distinction, but explored and capitalised on new opportunities that presented themselves amid a rapidly changing landscape.

A UNITED APPROACH

In consultation with our Senior Leadership Team (SLT), the QRL Board made some hard decisions as the country grappled with the onset of the health pandemic.

The cancellation of statewide competitions was understandably a difficult time for everyone associated with our clubs, particularly after the many months of pre-season preparation.

But it was a necessary step, made not only in the interests of health and safety of our participants, but to safeguard their future participation and sustainability.

While it was an unsettling period for many, our statewide competition clubs supported this decision and with ongoing assistance from the QRL, commenced planning for 2021.

This collaboration was matched by community clubs and leagues, who deferred their local competitions in line with the latest health advice, before working diligently with our support to get their participants back on the field in July.

MAROONS MAGIC THRILLS FANS

On the sporting field, the success of our men's and women's teams brought enormous joy and satisfaction at the end of a challenging year.

The Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons typified the passion for the jersey and those who have come before them with an outstanding victory in the women's Origin.

The self-belief shown by the Maroons on the way to becoming the first Queensland team to taste women's Origin success is set to inspire young girls around the state for years to come and again we congratulate the players, coaches and staff.

Our men's team matched that commitment with a spectacular series win over New South Wales, secured before a near capacity crowd at Suncorp Stadium.

Particular mention must be made of the 27 players who contributed to the success, as the pride they had in their own performances, their families, their team and their state was clearly evident.

Very few people outside of Queensland gave this team a chance of winning the series, but head coach Wayne Bennett and his assistants, Mal Meninga and Neil Henry, knew what needed to be done.

We must also acknowledge the lead up work of Kevin Walters, who oversaw numerous camps and was thoroughly professional throughout the coaching changeover.

On behalf of the QRL, we thank Kevin for his work and loyalty to the Maroons and the people of Queensland, and wish him every success in his new role with the Brisbane Broncos.

STRONG LEADERSHIP DELIVERS RESULTS

The leadership of Robert Moore in his role as Managing Director has been of the highest quality.

Moore and our senior leaders played a critical role in guiding us through a very difficult year, with their effective communication methods and commitment to our people setting the benchmark for the organisation.

The same can be said of my fellow directors, who contributed greatly during a time of need.

We must also applaud the attitude and commitment of our people across the state who went above and beyond during such a challenging and uncertain period.

The support of the Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) has been reassuring throughout the year.

The ARLC set a path for the rest of the sporting world to follow when, against all odds, the NRL season made its much anticipated return in late May after the coronavirus-enforced shutdown.

This bold and innovative approach got the code back on its feet and paved the way for the revised Origin scheduling.

PARTNERS MAKE A STAND

We acknowledge our partners and suppliers who stood behind us and supported our efforts to achieve the best possible outcomes in very trying circumstances.

It speaks volumes about the strength of the QRL brand and our relationships that we were able to maintain our entire partnership portfolio. Ice Break and Surf Lifesaving Queensland also

came on board during this period, another boost for the game and our people. We thank platinum partners XXXX, Auswide Bank and Intrust Super, along with major partners BHP and McDonald's.

It would be remiss of me not to make special mention of XXXX after we celebrated our 30th year with the iconic brand as well as a five-year partnership extension in 2020.

A FUTURE FOR ALL

This year, we have invested heavily in our key pathways and performance sector.

Our review into this area and subsequent actions will lay the foundations to achieve our primary goal of developing more players, coaches and referees for the elite level of the game.

We share the view that the development and growth of rugby league hinges on our ability to make our game available to every individual, no matter their background or capability.

From a lifetime of involvement in rugby league myself, I can attest to the opportunities the game provides, particularly for those who choose to adopt a strong work ethic.

And for those who accept their responsibility to the game and others, while embracing teamwork and leadership, the sky is the limit.

But like everyday life, all rugby league journeys encompass success and adversity, factors that each participant must manage and resolve.

In closing, we thank everyone who either commenced or added a new chapter to their rugby league journey, and look forward to a prosperous new season in 2021.

In consultation with our Senior Leadership Team, the QRL Board made some hard decisions as the country grappled with the onset of the health pandemic.

Bruce Hatcher | QRL Chairman

MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

It has been a privilege to lead the Queensland Rugby League over the past 12 months.

As this report outlines, there have been unprecedented obstacles to overcome and I am grateful to be part of the shared sense of purpose displayed by our board, staff, partners and participants.

This document will showcase some of the highlights of the QRL, our people and community leagues.

But before we look at these achievements, it is worth putting them into context by looking outside sport to other businesses and organisations that have managed their activities well throughout the crisis.

There are similarities in many businesses that have thrived during this period. They focused on their staff and wellbeing, and they saw the crisis as an opportunity to question and plan how they did their business.

And perhaps most importantly, they made a decision to come out better on the other side.

I believe the QRL is in position of strength because we delivered in these key areas.

SMART CHOICES SHAPE FIGHTBACK

QRL is in a strong position financially, and more importantly has the foundations to grow out of COVID-19, because of the way our team bought into the 'pandemic plan' and supported each other.

This was no quick fix, though, as the QRL's operations and funding was significantly impacted by the various restrictions implemented by the three levels of government in their quest to keep Queenslanders safe.

The board and the SLT immediately commenced a refresh of the organisation's five-year plan and reviewed all QRL activities.



Cost-saving measures were implemented to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on the organisation, and to safeguard the future financial position of the QRL.

These actions are outlined in the Directors' Report on page 46.

Wellbeing and retention of staff, the support of statewide competition clubs and commercial partners, and the return of community rugby league in 2020 were the priorities identified by the SLT and board.

These measures, together with the financial support provided by the Federal Government's JobKeeper program, ensured the QRL finished 2020 with a strong financial base to enable the organisation to support the return of all levels of rugby league across Queensland in 2021.

A WIN FOR COMMUNITY FOOTY

As Managing Director, I was pleased to make numerous visits to local grounds when community rugby league resumed in July.

The return of community fixtures was an uplifting time for not only our participants, but their family and friends and fans of our great game.

At various times, we looked at long odds to hear the sound of a referee's whistle again following the suspension of community sport in March.

But we got there, thanks to an enormous amount of hard work, foresight and collaboration from our staff and volunteers within our leagues and clubs.

Our return to play endeavours were anchored by our initial involvement in the QSport Field Sports Group and the subsequent submission of a sport and recreation industry COVID-Safe Plan.

It was encouraging to witness the level of collaboration between leagues and clubs, as new competitions and formats got off the ground across the state.

The overall numbers of boys and girls, men and women who registered to play rugby league made for satisfying reading (see Participation report).

QRL was also pleased to make a significant financial investment of more than \$550,000 to support the return of community rugby league in 2020.

NEW PROJECTS SET TONE

While the on-field action was halted by either the suspension or cancellation of premiership fixtures, it was the complete opposite off the field as our teams worked diligently on new projects and initiatives.

With an eye to the future, the QRL finalised and released three key strategic documents in 2020 – the Diversity and Inclusion Framework, Reconciliation Action Plan and Female Strategy.

Goals were kicked as well in the performance sector following an extensive strategic review to support and enhance player/coach development and pathways.

The QRL will maintain its statewide footprint in 2021, another positive outcome as we strive to increase the number of Queensland-eligible players, coaches and referees in national competitions.

While our men's and women's Origin teams performed brilliantly to win their respective series, we are not resting on recent achievements and have commissioned reviews into both programs to enhance our prospects of future success.

Along with strengthening rugby league in Queensland, we are also committed to helping others achieve their goals, particularly our good friends in the Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League.

Courtesy of a partnership with the Australian Government's PacificAus Sports, the QRL and PNGRFL are already working together to grow and support the game in PNG, with a focus on female athlete development, elite player pathways, wellbeing education and commercial sustainability.

BRAND CHANGE GIVES GLIMPSE TO FUTURE

Shortly before we closed our doors for a well-deserved Christmas and New Year break, we unveiled a new logo and branding that will be at the forefront of the QRL's future endeavours.

This exciting new look for both the QRL and its three regions might only represent a small change to some, but it is reflective of the pride and aspirations we have for our people and the game.

Our teams who worked across partnerships, brand and marketing, membership and digital / media achieved some incredible outcomes this year.

In challenging times, they connected our fans and partners to our on-field stars, while reaching diverse audiences through both new and traditional platforms.

In closing, I thank everyone involved in the game for their extraordinary contributions in 2020.

I believe we are extremely well placed heading into 2021, and I look forward to working with our participants and partners over the next 12 months to achieve our ambitions for rugby league in Queensland.

I believe the QRL is in position of strength because we delivered in these key areas.

Robert Moore | Managing Director

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The QRL's Senior Leadership Team prioritised people, communication, and the long-term sustainability of rugby league in Queensland as it steered the organisation and game through one of its most challenging periods on record.

A COVID-19 project team was established in the early stages of the pandemic to monitor the situation, collate information from various government and health authorities, and to report back to the SLT on potential impacts to the QRL.

Adopting a staged approach to dealing with the impact of the pandemic, the early planning dealt with the immediacy of the QRL's crisis response by limiting discretionary cash expenditures and reducing the future leave liabilities of staff.

The approach to people resourcing was well-considered and measured, with staff regularly surveyed and consulted as the QRL focused on long-term sustainability via the retention of key talent and skills.

While stage two of the QRL's pandemic response saw a reduction in working hours for all QRL staff, key stakeholder relationships continued to be maintained as the QRL prepared for the potential recommencement of the 2020 season.

With the backing of the QRL Board, the senior leadership team then turned their focus to building capability and systems for the 2021 season and beyond.

A review of key stakeholder and partner agreements, together with a refresh of the QRL Strategic Plan, was also undertaken to ensure the QRL's short and long-term strategies maintained their relevance in the unprecedented environment.

As part of stage three of the QRL's response to coronavirus, the wider leadership team were consulted on key priorities aligned to the revised Strategic Plan and a set of delivery priorities were approved by the board for 2021-22.

Once the revision to strategic priorities had been completed, the SLT considered the desired attributes, skills and capabilities of the QRL's future workforce. An analysis of skill, capability, and capacity gaps across the organisation followed.

Overlaying the entire response process, the senior leadership team continued to operate in an uncertain funding environment as game-wide revenues from broadcast suffered.

With future funding provided by the ARLC remaining unconfirmed for most of the 2020 year, it was necessary to continue to progress revisions to the QRL operating model given the financial impact associated with delaying any changes.

Savings in the QRL cost base were subsequently identified to match an expected 20 per cent reduction in funding provided to the QRL, primarily through different ways of working, and different ways of delivering competitions and support to the rugby league community of Queensland.

Organisational design, workforce planning, operational planning and rigorous financial analysis were other focal points for the SLT during this period.

While the reaction of many sporting bodies in Australia may have been to rapidly slash headcount, rebuilding or buying talent as the environment improves may prove to be a long and difficult road.

Rugby league in Queensland, on the other hand, will be in a strong position to drive the game forward in 2021 and beyond.

Robert Moore

Managing Director

Rohan Sawyer

Chief Operating Officer

Graham Maher

Chief Financial Officer and
Company Secretary

Jane Shand

Chief Human Resources Manager

Glenn Ottaway

General Manager –
Community Rugby League



SETTING THE FOUNDATIONS



STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR PURPOSE

Unite, excite and inspire people through lifelong engagement in rugby league.

UNITE

More players across ages, segments and markets.



Prioritise growth in the number of participants who are **playing** the game.

Offer easily accessible **contact and non-contact** participation options **year-round**.

Build the foundations for a statewide footprint via participation growth, relevant pathways and representative programs including State of Origin.

EXCITE

More fans watching and engaging.



Establish and maintain **facilities** of appropriate standard for local, regional, state and national competitions.

Ensure that competition structures and roles prioritise player **health, safety, and wellbeing**, and promote engagement in all affiliated competitions.

Create **new and exciting content** available on existing and new platforms **year-round**.

INSPIRE

Be the most inspirational sport.



Convert a greater proportion of consumers into **advocates** of our game.

Leverage the game's **unique ability to make a difference** in our community.

Communicate and celebrate the **positive stories of our game**.

OUR ENABLERS

NEW WAYS OF WORKING TOGETHER -

with NRL, regions, affiliates, partners and volunteers.

Strengthen collaborative relationships through effective communication.

Create efficiencies through refining processes, and sharing programs across the state.

Investigate and maximise the use of technology to increase collaboration and strengthen partnerships.

Build inclusiveness and accessibility for all.

Progress the investment in processes that support our people through organisational change.

ENHANCE THE CAPABILITY -

of our organisation and our people.

Invest in and showcase the capability of our people including employees, volunteers, local leagues, clubs and associations.

Effectively manage available resources through good governance.

Maximise use of resources by aligning relevant QRL programs with whole of game programs, removing duplication, identifying and implementing efficiencies.

Implement innovative solutions through the use of technology and digital platforms.

Recruit and retain capable volunteers for local leagues, clubs and associations by investing in sustainable programs.

MAXIMISE OUTCOMES -

for the game and all stakeholders.

Be the 'brand of choice' by providing support and services that meet all stakeholder needs.

Innovate and advocate non-traditional revenue opportunities to grow whole of game sustainability.

Support sustainable governance models which future proof all statewide competition clubs, community clubs and leagues.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

STRATEGIC ENABLERS

DELIVERY PRIORITIES

UNITE

1. Build capacity, capability and engagement across Queensland's rugby league network
2. Maintain a footprint that feeds clear pathways into statewide competitions and representative programs

- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships through effective communication
- Invest in and showcase the capability of our people
- Develop the capabilities of volunteers, local leagues, clubs and associations by investing in priority programs
- Support a sustainable governance and delivery model which future-proofs statewide competitions and representative programs

- Implement and embed the community rugby league delivery model
- Build industry and organisational governance capability
- Build leadership capability in the QRL workforce to meet changes to the community rugby league delivery model
- Build leadership capability in key club, league and association leadership positions
- Develop and deliver a QRL volunteer engagement strategy
- Create a self-service model for education and training and to access applicable resources
- Provide grant funding which is targeted to QRL strategic pillars
- Deliver a coaching framework which meets performance needs
- Build capability and sustainability across statewide competitions clubs
- Ensure pathways programs and statewide competitions are aligned to meet the QRL strategic pillars
- Clearly define and support the role of leagues, schools, regions, statewide competitions clubs and NRL clubs in player and pathway development
- Review the match official high performance program to support state-based outcomes

EXCITE

3. Deliver technology solutions to create efficiencies across competition delivery, club, league and region governance, and education

- Create efficiencies through refining and standardising processes, policy and programs across the state
- Investigate and maximise the use of technology to increase collaboration, strengthen relationships and drive efficiency
- Effectively manage available resources through good operating systems

- Remove duplication of systems and service delivery
- Research and implement appropriate technology solutions
- Increase our capability to own and capture data to lead strategy
- Manage and deliver quality content to support statewide competitions and community rugby league
- Use technology to interact with staff, volunteers and stakeholders more frequently and with purpose

INSPIRE

4. Leverage the game's unique ability to make a difference in our community
5. Build engagement and partnerships to sustain and fund program delivery and create advocates for the game

- Build inclusiveness and accessibility for all
- Focus on commercial partnerships and program delivery that produce broader social and community outcomes
- Develop traditional and non-traditional own sourced revenue opportunities
- Build the capability and capacity to deliver broadcast quality content
- Build on Government relationships to support program delivery

- Deliver a QRL wellbeing and education strategy utilising the national framework
- Develop partnerships and deliver programs that provide social and community outcomes
- Shape programs to maximise access to Government support
- Deliver Queensland State Government Activate Sport & Recreation Partnership
- Maintain a strategic alliance, and strong working relationship, with ARLC and NRL
- Define and review the return on investment (monetary or strategic) for commercial activities
- Increase digital and broadcast sales through brand campaigns
- Deliver a consistent QRL brand
- Focus on high value content that attracts audience and engagement across all levels of the game

THE WAY FORWARD

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Delivering a game that is accessible to all has been the focus of the QRL's diversity and inclusion strategy.

In August, QRL released its Diversity and Inclusion Framework (2020-2022) as a formal commitment to lead change and make a significant difference across communities.

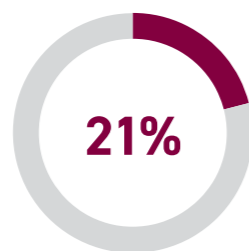
Designed by a project team following consultation with internal and external stakeholders over the past 12 months, the framework supports the female and reconciliation strategies.

The QRL's commitment to diversity and inclusion is driven by the existing seven pillars of inclusion, as established by 'Play by the Rules'. These are:

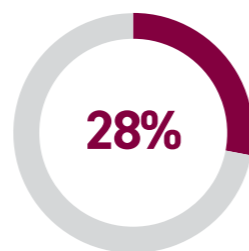
- Access
- Attitude
- Choice
- Partnerships
- Communications
- Policy
- Opportunities

OUR DIVERSE FOOTPRINT

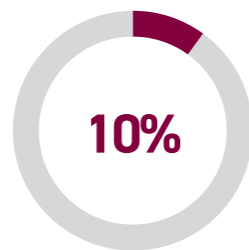
Recent analysis of the Queensland Rugby League community included:



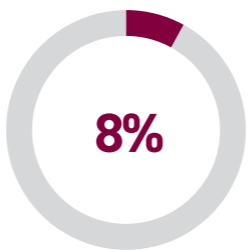
OF PLAYERS IDENTIFY AS ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER



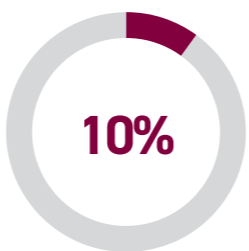
OF PLAYERS WITH PARENTS WERE BORN OVERSEAS



OF PLAYERS ARE FEMALE



OF PLAYERS IDENTIFY AS MAORI



OF PLAYERS BORN OVERSEAS



PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN QUEENSLAND ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF 175 COUNTRIES



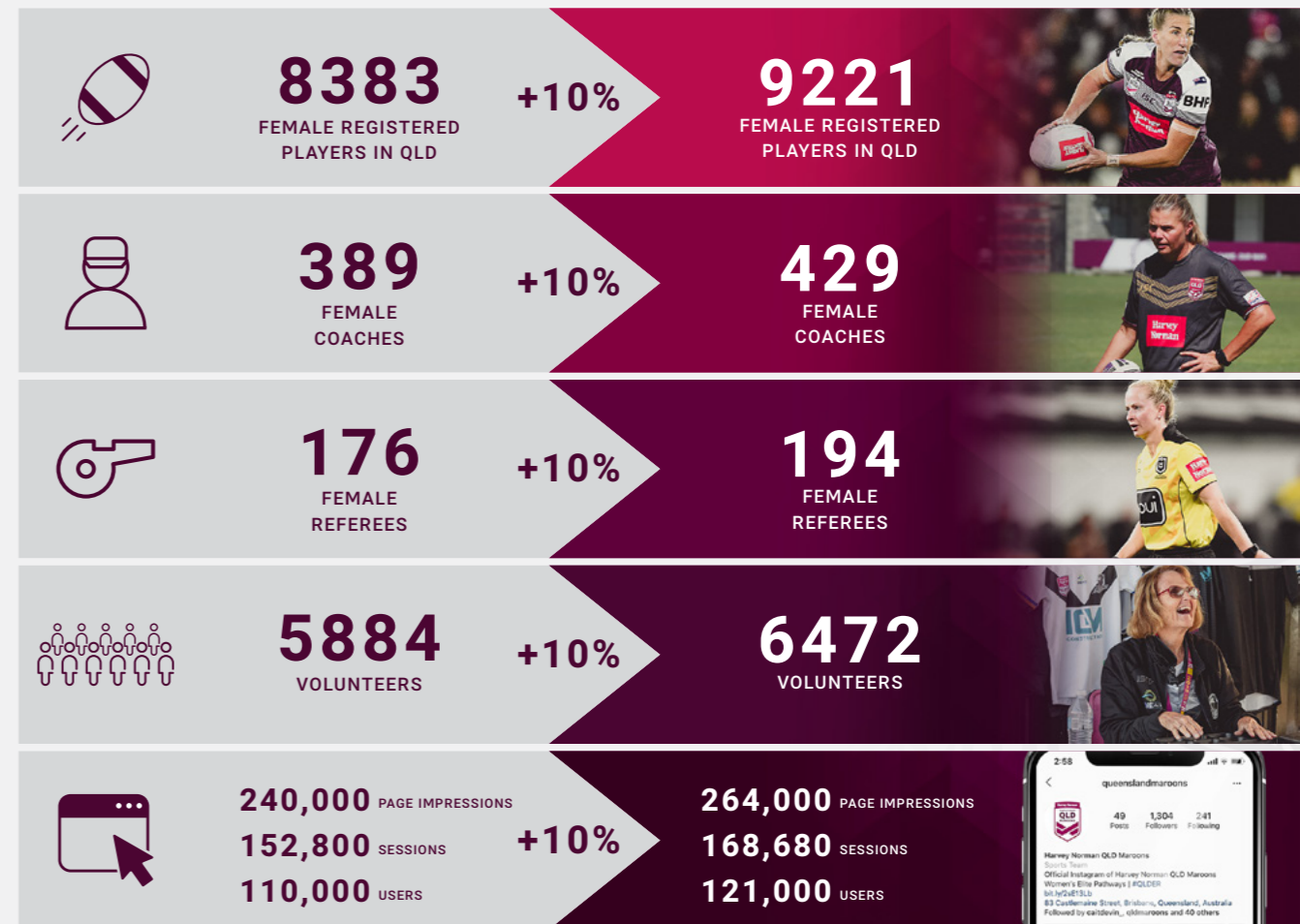
FEMALE STRATEGY

A desire to expand participation, both on and off the field, is at the heart of the Female Strategy, developed in consultation with other sports, business and government sectors.

The strategic pillars identified include education, participation, pathways, resources and sustainability, brand, partnerships and people, as key delivery areas of the strategy.

2019

BY 2022



RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

QRL unveiled the Reconciliation Action Plan in July, pledging its commitment to further grow the capacity and reach of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rugby league through the development of sustainable partnerships and activities.

The unveiling of the 2020-21 RAP was another feather in the cap for the game after the QRL was earlier this year announced as a finalist in the Queensland Reconciliation Awards.

The RAP features 14 action points, all of which aim to drive community and social improvement outcomes throughout the state.

Each action is attached to deliverables as well as timelines, with all components assigned to a designated working group or department within the game.

PATHWAYS

The QRL will maintain its statewide footprint in 2021 following an extensive strategic review to support and enhance player development and pathways.

At the heart of this review process has been a desire to increase the number of Queensland-eligible players, coaches and referees in national men's and women's competitions.

Other objectives of the review were to clarify roles and responsibilities of groups that presently organise and deliver rugby league activity to participants aged 13 to 18.

The review also focused on the current climate and the need to identify cost-effective approaches.

A key review outcome endorsed the continuation of the Intrust Super Cup and BHP Premiership in statewide formats with one underpinning age group.

Other outcomes:

- The Intrust Super Cup will now be played over 19 rounds, while the Hastings Deering Colts will be contested over 16 rounds and will cater for under 21 players following a decision to extend the age of participants by one year. This move took into account numerous supporting factors, including the logic that the added year of experience and maturity will boost the performance of players who are called into the Intrust Super Cup.
- Intrust Super Cup clubs will be responsible for under 16 and under 18 player development within their agreed catchment areas, while regions and local leagues will be primarily responsible for the delivery of development opportunities for under 13s to 15s.

The review recommendations will also result in changes from the under 13 to under 18 male pathway as follows:

- The Auswide Bank Mal Meninga Cup (under 18) competition will feature six rounds within four regional conferences. Semi-finals and finals will be held.
- An under 16 competition will align to the under 18 competitions, except that teams

will play three matches with no finals. These games will replace the four-day state junior carnival.

- A City versus Country development week will be added to the representative calendar with a game on Intrust Super Cup grand final day.

Likewise, the recommendations result in changes from the under 13 to under 18 female pathway as follows:

- An Under 19 statewide competition will be played within regional conferences in 2021 to complement the BHP Premiership that launched in 2020. Teams will play three matches.
- An Under 17 competition, to be based on events planned for this year, will take place with three regional carnivals held. No state carnival will be held.
- A City versus Country development week will be added to the representative calendar with a game on Intrust Super Cup grand final day.

OTHER KEY INITIATIVES

The QRL Pathways and Performance team is committed to developing the next generation of Queensland players and coaches.

This ambition has led to the design and release of two important resources – the Queensland Player Toolkit and Coach Capability Framework.

The player toolkit is a resource for emerging talent between the under 16 and under 18 year groups, as they begin to invest more time and focus into rugby league.

It has been specifically designed to support the development of skills, character and athleticism throughout these years. The toolkit is based on five general principles, which allow participants to reflect on areas of strength and opportunity in their game.

The coach framework has been designed to provide aspiring coaches across Queensland with an understanding of the broad range of capabilities elite coaches possess across rugby league.

The framework has identified four integrated knowledge areas that underpin the capabilities for effective coaching in rugby league.

These are:

- **Your craft**
- **Your self**
- **Your people**
- **Your culture**

NEW PROGRAM TO BOOST DEVELOPMENT

The QRL will implement the RISE Talent Development program in 2021.

As part of changes announced to the statewide pathways for participants earlier in the year, the RISE program will be offered by 19 local leagues and associations across Queensland.

In a major coup for the game, 2500 aspirational players between the age of 13 and 15 are expected to participate.

With the QRL committed to the implementation of the NRL Player Development Framework, the adoption of a statewide approach will ensure aspirational players are provided with access to talent development through accredited coaches.

A key driver behind the change was the desire to ensure players had fully matured before representative selection decisions were made.

RISE was developed by elite coaches Mal Meninga and Neil Henry with input from leading experts in skill acquisition and player development.

The RISE program will consist of a five-session training program and weekend of competitive games at the completion of the training window.

QRL MALE PATHWAY

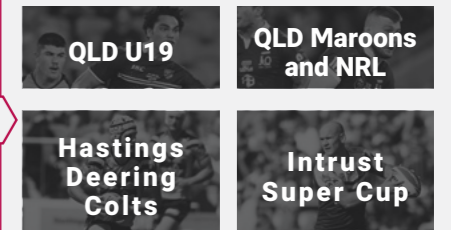
AGES: 13-15 YEARS



AGES: 16-18 YEARS



AGES: 19 YEARS AND ABOVE



COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE AND QUEENSLAND SCHOOL SPORT RUGBY LEAGUE

- RISE is a player development program for aspirational players.
- Players receive coaching across five sessions with a focus on technical, physical and socio-emotional development.
- Twenty delivery locations across Queensland.

- Cyril Connell Challenge and Auswide Bank Mal Meninga Cup provide players with opportunities to play other talented players from across Queensland.
- Programs will be six months in duration between December and May.
- Identified players will be invited to the QAS City versus Country program in September.

SENIOR COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE

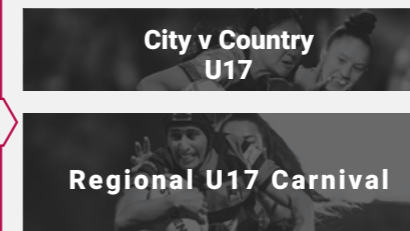
- Statewide major competition program running the full length of the season.
- Participating clubs are affiliated with NRL clubs and provide the highest level of competition for players in Queensland below the NRL.

QRL FEMALE PATHWAY

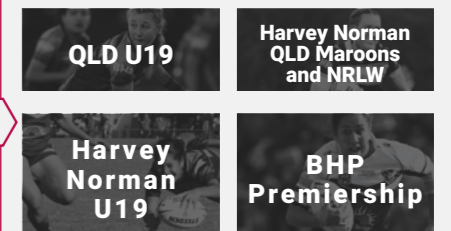
AGES: 13-15 YEARS



AGES: 16-18 YEARS



AGES: 19 YEARS AND ABOVE



COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE AND QUEENSLAND SCHOOL SPORT RUGBY LEAGUE

- RISE is a player development program for aspirational players.
- Players receive coaching across five sessions with a focus on technical, physical and socio-emotional development.
- Twenty delivery locations across Queensland.

- Under 17 carnival will be held annually in South East, Central and Northern regions.
- Identified players will be invited to the QAS City versus Country program in September each year.

SENIOR COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE

- Statewide competitions that provide a foundation for players to be selected for NRLW and Queensland Origin teams.
- Eight BHP Premiership teams and 12 under 19 teams across Queensland.

PLAYING OUR GAME



PARTICIPATION

Volunteers were the unsung heroes as community rugby league made a celebrated return in 2020.

With support from the QRL, leagues and clubs came together to provide opportunities for their participants to get back on the playing fields in line with Return to Play COVID-Safe guidelines.

To ensure the health and safety of participants, community clubs were required to register their attendance using the Eva Check-in app.

More than 390,000 visitors checked in across community venues over a unique 14-week period which also included finals matches.

Many competitions were played over 10 rounds or less, formats which proved popular with many clubs and their members seeing the benefits of the shorter season length.

A high profile example was that of the Valleys club in Rugby League Brisbane, where former Maroons Origin star and 300-game NRL veteran Scott Prince came out of retirement to play in the In Safe Hands Cup.

The overall numbers of boys and girls, men and women who chose to play rugby league made for satisfying reading for our regional managers.

More than 56,000 players registered to play in junior and senior club competitions throughout the state.

A total of 224 competitions across the SEQ, Central and Northern regions were contested, an excellent result in such a testing year.

QRL and its regions identified the cost of insurance as a factor which could prevent many clubs in their return to play endeavours.

As a result, the QRL and Australian Rugby League Commission in June announced a significant financial investment to support community clubs.

This funding was directly targeted at junior clubs to cover the full cost of insurance for all teams, from under 6s to under 18s, for the abbreviated 2020 season.

	TOTAL	Male	Female
TOTAL	56,063	48,949	7114
Seniors	10,595	8752	1843
Juniors	45,468	40,197	5271

REGION PARTICIPATION HIGHLIGHTS

SOUTH EAST

Rugby League Gold Coast – registrations increased from **6276 TO 6390 (1.80 PER CENT GROWTH)**

CENTRAL

Sunshine Coast Junior Rugby League – registrations increased from **3686 TO 3913 (6 PER CENT GROWTH)**

NORTHERN

Townsville & District Junior Rugby League – registrations increased from **3192 TO 3473 (8.80 PER CENT GROWTH)**



QUEENSLAND MAROONS



Master coach Wayne Bennett returned to the Origin arena for the first time since 2003 as the Queensland Maroons recorded a series win for the ages.

Predicably written off by New South Wales critics who labelled the Maroons "the worst team in 40 years", a youthful Queensland team responded in emphatic style to claim the series 2-1.

Remarkably, Bennett selected 17 players who had yet to play for the Maroons in his squad of 27, which spent three and a half weeks in a biosecurity bubble on the Gold Coast throughout October and November.

Fourteen players would go on to make their Origin debuts, including eight in the first game, won 18-14 by the Maroons at Adelaide Oval.

After trailing by 10 points at half-time in Game I, Queensland responded with a gritty defensive display in the second half.

Sustained pressure eventually led to points, with AJ Brimson, Xavier Coates and Cameron Munster crossing for tries as the Maroons rallied to snatch a brilliant 18-14 win in the historic Adelaide clash.

Captain Daly Cherry-Evans led from the front to claim the player of the match honours, while Jake Friend and Kurt Capewell were simply superb on debut.

Game II did not go to script for the Maroons, who were overrun by the Blues 34-10 in Sydney.

However, Bennett knew his Maroons had more up their sleeve and immediately began plotting their Game III resurgence upon returning to camp.

A further four players would be thrust into an Origin decider on debut, including rising hooker Harry Grant and winger Edrick Lee.

In a memorable evening, both Grant and Lee crossed for crucial tries as the Maroons led the Blues from start to finish to clinch a 20-14 victory at home.

The final word was best left to Cherry-Evans, with the proud skipper having this to say at the post-match presentation.

"I'd like to thank not just this team here, but everyone who supported us at home. We made a lot of sacrifices and there's a lot of people at home that can't be here tonight so thank you.

"Thank you to everyone in the stadium, this is the best stadium in the world.

"And on behalf of the worst ever Queensland team, thank you very much."



2020 MAROONS AWARD WINNERS

RON MCAULIFFE MEDAL (PLAYERS' PLAYER):
JAKE FRIEND

FOGS PETER JACKSON MEMORIAL MEDAL (SPIRIT):
JOSH KERR

GAME I

1. AJ Brimson
2. Xavier Coates
4. Dane Gagai
18. Kurt Capewell
5. Phillip Sami
6. Cameron Munster
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (c)
8. Christian Welch
9. Jake Friend
10. Josh Papalii
11. Felise Kaufusi
12. Coen Hess
13. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui

Interchange:

14. Ben Hunt
15. Lindsay Collins
16. Jai Arrow
17. Jaydn Su'A

QUEENSLAND MAROONS 18 (AJ Brimson, Xavier Coates, Cameron Munster tries; Daly Cherry-Evans 3 goals) def **NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 14** (Josh Addo-Carr 2, Damien Cook tries; Nathan Cleary goal) at Adelaide Oval

Coach: Wayne Bennett
Crowd: 25,218

GAME II

1. Valentine Holmes
2. Xavier Coates
3. Kurt Capewell
4. Dane Gagai
5. Phillip Sami
6. Cameron Munster
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (c)
8. Dunamis Lui
9. Jake Friend
10. Josh Papalii
11. Felise Kaufusi
12. Jaydn Su'A
13. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui

Interchange:

14. Ben Hunt
15. Lindsay Collins
16. Jai Arrow
17. Moeaki Fotuauka

NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 34 (Josh Addo-Carr 2, Cody Walker, James Tedesco, Jack Wighton, Daniel Tupou tries; Nathan Cleary 5 goals) def **QUEENSLAND MAROONS 10** (Xavier Coates, Josh Papalii tries; Valentine Holmes goal) at ANZ Stadium

Coach: Wayne Bennett
Crowd: 36,212

GAME III

5. Corey Allan
1. Valentine Holmes
4. Dane Gagai
21. Brenko Lee
19. Edrick Lee
6. Cameron Munster
7. Daly Cherry-Evans (c)
8. Christian Welch
9. Jake Friend
10. Josh Papalii
3. Kurt Capewell
11. Felise Kaufusi
13. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui

Interchange:

12. Jaydn Su'A
14. Harry Grant
15. Lindsay Collins
16. Jai Arrow

QUEENSLAND MAROONS 20 (Valentine Holmes, Edrick Lee, Harry Grant tries; Valentine Holmes 4 goals) def **NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES 14** (James Tedesco, Daniel Tupou tries; Nathan Cleary 3 goals) at Suncorp Stadium

Coach: Wayne Bennett
Crowd: 49,155



2020 QUEENSLAND MAROONS SQUAD

Front: AJ Brimson, Valentine Holmes, Cameron Munster, Ben Hunt, Dane Gagai, Daly Cherry-Evans (captain), Josh Papalii, Jake Friend, Harry Grant, Phillip Sami
Middle: Jai Arrow, Corey Allan, Hymel Hunt, Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Xavier Coates, Patrick Carrigan, Jaydn Su'A, Moeaki Fotuauka, Dunamis Lui
Back: Kurt Capewell, Coen Hess, Edrick Lee, Christian Welch, Josh Kerr, Lindsay Collins, Felise Kaufusi, Brenko Lee



HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS



Tarryn Aiken and Tamika Upton ushered in a new era for the Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons with an attacking masterclass that inspired the state to its first ever Origin win over New South Wales.

Five-eighth Aiken and fullback Upton showcased their stunning skills as the Maroons ended NSW's four-year stranglehold on interstate bragging rights with a superb 24-18 win at Sunshine Coast Stadium.

The Brisbane NRLW premiership-winning duo were two of seven debutants for the Maroons, but it was their individual brilliance that tipped a tight match in the home side's favour.

The electric Upton raced away for a stunning long-range solo try in the first half and finished the game with a double when she

completed Aiken's line bust shortly after the break to give Queensland a lead they would never let go.

Utilising her elusive running and sharp footwork, Aiken cut through the line in the 52nd minute for her own four-pointer as the Maroons raced out to an 18-6 lead on their way to a memorable win.

It wasn't just the debutants who starred in front of the sell-out crowd of 4833, with veteran front-rower Steph Hancock rewarded for her strong game off the bench by scoring the clincher 12 minutes from full-time for a 24-6 lead.

NSW scored three late tries in 11 minutes, leaving the Maroons a nerve-racking eight seconds on the clock to defend for the win.

But when the Queensland kick-off bounced over the sideline, the Maroons celebrated in style.

After years of Origin heartbreak, it was an emotional win for the Maroons who had dominated the first half but failed to make the most of their opportunities and strong breeze at their backs.

Both teams finished with four tries, with the accurate goalkicking of Lauren Brown proving the difference on the scoreboard.

TEAM LIST

1. Tamika Upton
2. Sheneae Ciesiolka
3. Julia Robinson
4. Lauren Brown
5. Karina Brown
6. Tarryn Aiken
7. Zahara Temara
8. Chelsea Lenarduzzi
9. Brittany Breayley
14. Rona Peters
11. Tallisha Harden
12. Tazmin Gray
13. Ali Briggingshaw (c)

Interchange:

10. Steph Hancock
15. Annette Brander
16. Shannon Mato
17. Shaniah Power

HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS 24

(Tamika Upton 2, Tarryn Aiken, Steph Hancock tries; Lauren Brown 4 goals) def **NEW SOUTH WALES 18** (Kezie Apps, Tiana Penitani, Filomina Hanisi, Botille Vette-Welsh tries; Melanie Howard goal) at Sunshine Coast Stadium

Coach: Jason Hetherington

Crowd: 4833



2020 HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSLAND MAROONS SQUAD

Front: Rona Peters, Karina Brown, Steph Hancock, Jason Hetherington (coach), Ali Briggingshaw (captain), Tallisha Harden, Brittany Breayley
Middle: Chante Temara, Sheneae Ciesiolka, Julia Robinson, Tazmin Gray, Brianna Clark, Zahara Temara, Lauren Brown, Tarryn Aiken
Back: Annette Brander, Tamika Upton, Chelsea Lenarduzzi, Shannon Mato, Jessika Elliston, Shaniah Power

**DELIVERING
OUR GAME**



PARTNERS

QRL consolidated a solid year of commercial growth in 2020, largely off the back of partners re-committing and the signing of new partners.

The partnerships team embraced new ways of working throughout a challenging period to deliver some strong results, including significant growth across commercial digital assets.

The QRL was able to maintain its entire portfolio heading into the new year, while Ice Break came on board in the lead up to the Origin series.

The change in Origin scheduling allowed the QRL to collaborate with Surf Living Saving Queensland and their summer beach safety initiative, with Maroons legends Wally Lewis, Kevin Walters, Trevor Gillmeister and Gordon Tallis all featuring throughout an eight-week digital campaign.

In a further show of strength, QRL renewed a number of partners throughout the course of 2020.

Harvey Norman committed to a new three-year term as the naming rights sponsor of the Queensland Maroons women's team, BHP extended their current agreement to incorporate the BHP Premiership, McDonald's upgraded their partnership across a further three years, and P&O renewed their deal for another two years.

QRL would like to acknowledge the contribution of ISC Sport and Powerade, with both having completed their terms as official apparel and hydration partners respectively.

A new global apparel partner will be announced shortly, while the QRL is pleased to confirm Gatorade for the 2021 season on a new three-year deal.

Another milestone with XXXX was reached this year with QRL and Lion representatives coming together to celebrate 30 years, as well as a new five-year partnership extension.

The support of our partnership family has ensured the QRL is in a stable position, with strong growth potential, to continue to invest back into community football to deliver key outcomes for all involved in the game.

PLATINUM PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



OFFICIAL PARTNERS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS



DIGITAL

QRL's digital platforms provided a key communication channel throughout a challenging year.

With club competitions, representative games and programs severely impacted by the health pandemic, it was paramount all stakeholders received regular and accurate information.

Working in conjunction with team leaders across the entire business, the digital team stepped up to meet this challenge.

Highlights included:

- **113 per cent increase in video views to 37.9 million**
- **Queensland Maroons becoming the most followed Instagram and Facebook account across both NRL and AFL**
- **Queensland Maroons obtaining the mantle of the third most tweeted team across all sports**
- **QRL.com.au featuring in the top two of website users across the NRL Digital Network**



The impact of either suspended or cancelled competitions across Queensland were felt across digital channels because the many products available for fans hinged on rugby league's on-field action.

However, the digital team adapted quickly to continue its strong connection with fans, while also maintaining related commercial revenues.

A largely archive-focused video strategy was developed, including full replays of classic games across Intrust Super Cup and State of Origin, as fans engaged in big numbers.

Delivery of the Intrust Super Cup E-Sports Challenge, social media clips, launch of TikTok and celebration of the 40th year of Origin contributed to the rise of video views.

In collaboration with the partnerships team, new assets and integrations were quickly launched to ensure the impact on our partners was limited.

The highlight of this work was the '40 that forged Queensland' video series sponsored by XXXX. The 40-part video series counted down the most defining moments in Queensland Maroons history, culminating in more than three million video views.

Connecting with and delivering accurate information to community rugby league stakeholders throughout the impacts of COVID-19 was a critical area of work.

Highlights included a series of regular live video updates from the Community Rugby League general manager, which peaked at 20,000 unique viewers.

A return to play hub was created on QRL.com.au, housing information, collateral and supporting documentation including government protocols.

The State of Origin period for both Maroons teams was unique given the biosecurity protocols in place, and to support content production and media operations, the digital team partnered with Zoom to build a 'Zoom Hub' in both Maroons camps.

This feature allowed coaches and players to connect directly to media outlets for live TV and other requests in a controlled branding environment.

Fans of all levels of the game can look forward to the QRL's continued development of broadcast capability in 2021 after further advancements were made throughout the year.

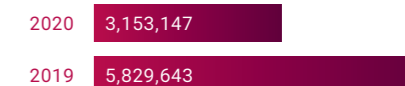
A three-tier production program will be launched, supported by the success of the 2020 Holcim Cup, as a proof of concept for future streaming across community rugby league.

As we approach 2021, the QRL's digital platforms and operations are geared up for continued growth with the anticipated return of the full rugby league calendar.

USERS



SESSIONS



IMPRESSIONS



VIDEO VIEWS



BRAND AND MARKETING

Supported by our talented creative team, the QRL brand and marketing team delivered some excellent campaigns and services in 2020.

40 YEARS OF ORIGIN – FORGED BY HISTORY

The significance of the 40th anniversary milestone year was central to the marketing strategy and creative concepts for the men's Origin series.

The historic 1980 logo was carried across the apparel and the design of the playing kit in a tribute to the first ever Origin jersey worn by the Queensland Maroons and the great Arthur Beetson.

The team bus and dressing sheds paid homage to the past four decades with the tagline – Forged by History.

Throughout the year, content was released to support the milestone with mini documentaries, written reflections and storytelling.

MAROONS SHOP

In December 2019, the QRL re-launched Maroons Shop by bringing the e-commerce site in house with a new user-friendly website and exciting new range of products.

The first year of operation proved a huge success and despite the impacts of COVID-19 on the season, the online shop achieved significant growth.

The business is investing further in the expansion of Maroons Shop, which from early 2021 will offer memberships, corporate hospitality, access to discounted playing equipment, as well as merchandise and supporter gear.

Highlights included:

- **Orders grew by 59 per cent**
- **Revenue increased by 44 per cent**
- **Fans loved the selection of new premium headwear from 47 headwear and fashionable supporter wear from Cotton On**
- **A special XXXX-themed training jersey was released to celebrate the 30-year partnership**
- **300 limited edition captain's run jerseys sold in one week**
- **Member exclusive one-day sale event achieved record sales in a 24-hour period**



MEMBERSHIP

16,439

Total Maroon Members in 2020

In a year like no other, QRL delivered positive experiences for more than 16,000 members.

This was a major achievement, given the impact COVID-19 had on game-day attendances, interstate travel and ticketing.

Member benefits in 2020 included 10 per cent off at MaroonsShop.com, priority access to State of Origin and NRL event tickets, breaking team news, member-only competitions and discounts and special offers from partners.

Inclusions included a new light up LED beanie for ticketed members and members hoodie.

Program highlights

- **NON-TICKETED MEMBERSHIPS**
 - A new strategy to drive supporter memberships was a success, recording 135 per cent growth in supporter (non-ticketed) membership sales
- **DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP**
 - A complimentary digital membership was introduced to participants in 2020
- **BRISBANE SOO**
 - Membership offering was a sell-out
- **WOMEN'S MEMBERSHIP**
 - Growth in women's membership to support Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons
- **XXXX MEMBERSHIP**
 - Third year of XXXX membership offering with sales increasing by 135 per cent
- **COWBOYS DUAL MEMBERSHIP**
 - Offered for the fourth year
- **MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS**
 - 46 NPS score
 - 98 per cent would be a member again
 - 90 per cent satisfaction rate





OUR COMMUNITY



VOLUNTEERS

QRL was proud to announce the recipients of its Queensland Community Awards in October.

Confronted by unprecedented challenges in 2020, the game's volunteers stepped up to keep rugby league prospering in Queensland.

Dirranbandi Frogs JRLC was named the QRL grassroots club of the year, while integral Maranoa stalwart Trent Knight was judged the volunteer of the year.

In a township of only 640, the Dirranbandi committee worked tirelessly to provide an opportunity for children in the Balonne Shire to lace up the boots.

Even with only seven participants registering to play in 2020, a number of dedicated volunteers ensured the club continued to field teams from under 6 to under 12 to support the local community.

Despite being dealt an extra challenge with the closure of the Queensland / New South Wales border in this COVID-affected year, the Frogs happily put their hand up to host game days for St George and Lightning Ridge, keeping the Balonne / Barwon season alive.

Just 300 kilometres north on the Carnarvon Highway, Knight has been the lifeblood of the Wallumbilla / Surat Red Bulls.

The 30-year-old – who first pulled on a Red Bulls jersey in 2004 – has served as the club's vice-president, reserve grade coach, maintenance manager and game-day and event organiser.



Trent Knight

And when he's not doing one of these roles, he's typically on the field playing in the club's A Grade side.

There is nothing within the club Knight has not done or organised. Knight has also been the driving force behind the club's annual Kirsten Albeck Memorial Nines Day, which has raised more than \$130,000 during the past five years.

With both state honours hailing from the Central Region, Northern and South East Queensland also named finalists for their respective regions.

Mackay & District chair Adam Wright was recognised for his leadership in ensuring the game kicked off in North Queensland;

Knight has also been the driving force behind the club's annual Kirsten Albeck Memorial Nines Day, which has raised more than \$130,000 over the past five years.

while the entire league community was acknowledged for their collaborative approach to return every competition from under 6 to A grade.

In the South East, the Albany Creek Crushers were named SEQ's grassroots club of the year for taking the extra steps to ensure the club remained open as an integral part of the north Brisbane community.

Wayne Court was also recognised for his 15 years of service to the Helensvale Hornets and greater Gold Coast Rugby League.

SOUTH EAST REGION

Female rugby league flourished in the South East Region despite the impacts of the health pandemic.

Fifty clubs took part in junior and senior SEQ competitions across Brisbane, Gold Coast and Ipswich.

For the first time, a standalone under 12 girls' competition was introduced with seven teams competing throughout the region.

South East increased its community consultation in the female space, leading to the creation of its first draft Female Strategic Plan.

This plan documents the region's ambition to increase female participation growth (registered players, coaches, officials, and volunteers) by 15 per cent from 2019 to 2022.

Another strategic item for the region focused on the development of a localised engagement plan to shape the formation of a feeder process to duplicate the male pathways system.

The region shares the view that an affiliation / feeder process will form a vital cog in ensuring the sustainability of female competitions.

As a key outcome, the region established it would continue to work with local leagues to ensure allocated female clubs meet minimum standard requirements.

Clubs wishing to be approved as a female club must satisfy these minimum requirements for their local league to consider endorsing their participation in South East female competitions.



The South East team worked diligently behind the scenes with its clubs and other stakeholders to get participants back on the field following the suspension of community rugby league due to COVID-19.

In a major achievement, more than 90 per cent of competitions returned in 2020 under the game's COVID-Safe guidelines.

The region also dipped into cash reserves to assist with the return to play process, while local leagues, boards and referees all played a significant part by reducing associated fees and honorariums.

The sacrifices and hard work paid off throughout October as participants and fans soaked up the grand final atmosphere.

Men's and women's senior grand finals across Brisbane, Gold Coast and Ipswich were broadcast via QRL digital platforms with more than 80,000 viewers enjoying the action.

SUMMARY OF CLUBS PARTICIPATING IN SEQ FEMALE COMPETITIONS

	League	12s	14s	16s	18s	Seniors	TOTAL
Summary	Brisbane	5	11	6	2	8	32
	Gold Coast	2	3	3	1	5	14
	Ipswich	0	2	1	0	1	4
	TOTAL	7	16	10	3	14	50

CENTRAL REGION

Leagues and clubs worked collaboratively with the Central Region to determine whether competitions would recommence in 2020.

The three main factors involved in this process were COVID protocols, volunteer support and financial considerations.

Senior leagues found it difficult as a whole to return to competitions and as a result, no traditional competitions commenced or recommenced in 2020.

However, there were still many positives to emerge as areas united to deliver new playing alternatives for senior participants.

Toowoomba clubs Gatton, Souths and Valleys were eager to play and joined clubs from Ipswich in the Volunteers Cup.

Berwah from the Sunshine Coast joined the Brisbane league with the Bulldogs going on to win the Division 1 premiership.

In the Central West, players formed two teams – the Western Reds and the Eastern Greys, for a series of competitive games.

Central Region juniors had more success as the majority of competitions got back up and running in 2020.

This return was aided by a significant financial investment by the game, which rallied behind community clubs by covering the full cost of insurance for junior teams.

Bundaberg juniors were the first to consider the implications of COVID-19 and the protocols required to commence training and playing, with their return to play plan setting the standard for the region.

Central Region featured prominently at the Queensland Community Awards.

The Dirranbandi junior club was named the 2020 QRL grassroots club of the year, while Wallumbilla-Surat's Trent Knight was named volunteer of the year.

Central would like to acknowledge all volunteers, particularly the efforts of long-

serving chairs Dave Kerrigan (Central West) and Paul Jensen (Rockhampton Junior Rugby League) who have retired from their roles.

Kerrigan guided Central West Rugby League through a challenging period which included a prolonged drought, while Jensen was instrumental in resurrecting the Rockhampton Junior Rugby League.

The Rockhampton juniors have enjoyed many years of strong numbers and players who have gone on to proudly represent the game at the highest level under Jensen's leadership.

Jensen recently received life membership of the Rockhampton Junior Rugby League as a fitting honour for his service.



NORTHERN REGION

Northern Region facilitated many positive community rugby league outcomes throughout its most challenging year on record.

One of many shining examples was the remarkable success of the Gulf United Rugby League.

While in lockdown and unable to play, Gulf United took the proactive steps to upskill and train their coaches and volunteers in readiness to return to play.

This was no easy task though, as COVID restrictions within Indigenous communities were tougher than those imposed across the state.

However, United's volunteers worked collaboratively with Queensland Police and numerous community groups to implement guidelines.

As a result, registered club numbers increased by 19 per cent, a highly-rewarding outcome for the community.

Another highlight to emerge from the season was the achievements of the Brothers Townsville RLFC following an enormous effort in getting both junior and senior players onto the field in an obstacle-filled year.

Brothers seniors travelled three times to Mackay (five hours each way on a bus) and also hosted three home games.

The club also had 46 teams play in the Townsville junior competition with 696 participants taking the field.

While the Cairns District Rugby League board elected to cancel the regular senior season in July, all was not lost with Cairns Brothers, Tully Tigers and two Northern Pride teams competing in a newly-formed six-round challenge.

Cairns District and Innisfail District juniors returned mid-year with many positives emerging from the condensed season.



The standards set by volunteers from Kangaroos juniors was of the highest quality, with their training and game-day protocols setting a fine example for the region.

Having embraced the Player Development Framework in 2020, it was pleasing to see an increase in player registrations within the Eacham District with the league playing a successful six-round season.

Junior and senior football in Mount Isa returned after the COVID-19 break with Wanderers claiming the senior title after beating Town in the grand final.

Despite the challenges, Mount Isa Rugby League was able to run a new City / Country competition for under 15 and under 17 boys and girls with more than 100 participants.

Mackay District juniors enjoyed an eight-week season, while the senior competition took on an exciting new look with Townsville clubs Brothers and Norths coming on board for the year.

QRL HISTORY COMMITTEE



The 11th Annual Ross Livermore Memorial Lecture was the first to be live-streamed by the QRL.

The 2020 lecture was also the first to be invitation only, given restrictions imposed on indoor events because of COVID-19.

Former Test hooker John Lang delivered the lecture in November and spoke primarily about Queensland's struggles in the 1970s, leading up to the inaugural State of Origin match in 1980.

Some of Lang's former team mates, including Bruce Hatcher, David Wright, Greg Veivers and Len Dittmar, were present at the lecture.

Rugby League Immortal, Wally Lewis, has agreed to deliver the 2021 lecture. World renowned sport historian, Professor Tony Collins, from De Montfort University in the UK, has offered his services as a guest lecturer when travel restrictions ease.

QRL History Committee member Steve Haddan collaborated with Lewis in 2020 to produce a magnificent piece of literature – 'Wally Lewis. My Life'.

The 2021 season will mark 40 years since Lewis made his Test debut for Australia against France. Lewis also made his debut as Queensland captain in 1981.

In 2020, Steve Ricketts worked in conjunction with QRL Digital to bring to fruition a 'Masters of the decade' project to mark 40 years of State of Origin football.

Ricketts acted as moderator for a series of interviews with Former Origin Greats and he also contributed two feature articles to New Limited's 68-page souvenir magazine, '40 Years of State of Origin'.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A PRODUCTIVE YEAR INCLUDED:

- Committee members provided artefacts for 'The Storytellers' Exhibition at the Museum of Brisbane in City Hall. One of these items was a 1911 Queensland cap, which the museum restored, at no expense to the QRL.
- A request from Channel Nine for photographs of the 'old Lang Park' was met with a swift, positive response from the committee, with a number of photos of the stadium provided in time for the station's Origin series coverage.
- The committee has made progress in its quest to have players, chosen for Australia without taking the field, recognised in a new category. It is believed there are at least 20 such players, many from Queensland.
- Committee members, most notably Greg Shannon, Greg Adermann and Paul Hayes, assisted Trooper Registrar Nigel Cox from the Army Museum, Victoria Barracks, ahead of a 'Sport During War' exhibition in 2021. Shannon, the committee's North Queensland representative, continued to assist North Queensland Cowboys with the historical display element of the new stadium in Townsville.
- Committee members were able to satisfy numerous requests from members of the public for information about matches, players, officials and loved ones, involved with the game. Committee members also investigated the validity and historic value of many items, from jerseys and footballs to photographs and line-markers.

The committee provided obituaries for the QRL website, following the passing of prominent state players including Noel Kelly, Gary Parcell and Col Weir.

Chair: Steve Ricketts

Members: John McCoy, Paul Hayes, Greg Shannon, Steve Haddan, Greg Adermann, Peter Betros.





GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIALS

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report together with the financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited ("QRL" or the "Company") for the year ended 31 October 2020 and the auditor's report thereon.

DIRECTORS NAMES

The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

B.M. Hatcher	
R.W. Moore	
L.W. Anderson	
R.M. Garard	
B.A.C. Ikin	
N.S. McCarthy	(Independent Director appointed 31 January 2020)
B.D. McGuire	
W.B. Prescott	(Independent Director retired 31 January 2020)
B.A. Tallon	
D.J. Van De Velde	
P.C. Daley	(Alternate director for B.A. Tallon)
S. Hawkins	(Alternate director for L.W. Anderson)
P.D. Hunt	(Alternate director for B.D. McGuire)
M. Peters	(Alternate director for D.J. Van de Velde)

The directors have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

The net profit after tax of the Company for year ended 31 October 2020 was \$916,602 (2019: net loss after tax \$336,218).

As at 31 October 2020, the Company's net assets were \$7,095,960 (2019: \$6,179,358)

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic.

Federal, state, and local governments implemented various restrictions, including travel restrictions, border closings and restrictions on public gatherings which significantly impacted the operations and funding of the QRL.

The QRL Board and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) undertook a refresh of the QRL 5-year plan and review of QRL activities, implementing a number of cost-saving measures to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on the organisation, and to safeguard the future financial position of the QRL, including:

- cancelling Statewide Competitions;
- renegotiating partnership arrangements and pivoting to digital delivery of partnership commitments;
- reducing grant funding to affiliates;
- removing discretionary football and commercial expenditures; and
- significantly reducing the working hours of all QRL staff across the State.

In reviewing the operations of the organisation, the Board and SLT prioritised the wellbeing and retention of QRL staff, the support of Statewide Competition Clubs and commercial partners, and support for the return to play of community rugby league in July 2020. The return of community rugby league in 2020 was supported by the QRL financially with an investment of over \$550,000.

The actions undertaken by the Board and SLT, together with the significant financial support provided by the Federal Government JobKeeper program, ensured that the QRL finished 2020 with a strong financial base to enable the organisation to support the return of rugby league across Queensland in 2021.

SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The QRL's short-term objectives are to increase male and female player participation numbers from junior through to elite levels of rugby league throughout Queensland, and to maintain the State of Origin teams performance.

The QRL's long-term objectives are to foster, develop, extend and control rugby league from the junior through to elite levels throughout Queensland and to generally take such action as may be considered to be in the best interests of rugby league in Queensland.

To ensure the short-term objectives of the QRL are being met, the Company will:

- Promote and communicate the achievements of the QRL within Queensland communities and amongst the stakeholders of rugby league in Queensland;
- Continue to support and resource the Queensland State of Origin programs; and
- Pro-actively identify and develop future Origin players through an ongoing association with the Queensland Academy of Sport.

To ensure the long-term objectives of the QRL are being met, the Company will:

- Organise, conduct, and develop competitions within Queensland from junior through to elite levels;
- Conduct player camps and be responsible for the education of coaches, first aid officers and other officials within the game's development structures and produce a range of resources to assist in this regard;

- Co-operate, with organisations controlling the game in other states of Australia and other countries, in the fostering and control of the game;

- Subscribe to, become a member of, and co-operate with any other club, association or organisation, whether incorporated or not, whose objectives are altogether or in part similar to those of the QRL;

- Enter into any arrangement with any government or authority, supreme, municipal, local or otherwise that may be conducive to any or all of the QRL's objectives;

- Regulate and control the operation of all member bodies and affiliates; and

- Make grants by way of gift and to render other financial assistance to clubs and other persons and bodies connected with the game.

The KPIs of the QRL are reviewed by the Managing Director, Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Directors on a regular basis to ensure relevance at any particular point in time.

The QRL's performance is constantly measured against:

- Demographic analysis of participation numbers, potential players, and lost players;
- Feedback from member clubs and other key stakeholders; and
- Budget.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

To carry out the Company's strategies and to achieve its short-term and long-term objectives, the Company engaged in its principal activities during the year of fostering and propagating rugby league in Queensland. There were no significant changes in the nature of these activities during the year.

INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS



B.M. HATCHER

CHAIRMAN | BCom FCA FAICD

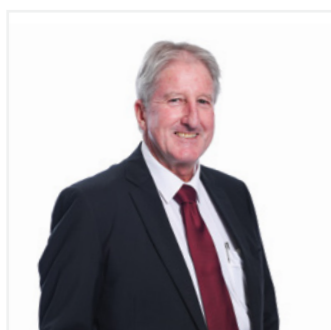
A QRL Director for over 12 years, Bruce was re-appointed as Chair of the QRL at the Annual General Meeting held on 31 January 2020. Bruce is a specialist family business consultant to BDO Chartered Accountants and a Director of the Brisbane Markets Ltd.



R.W. MOORE

MANAGING DIRECTOR | BHumanMovSt

A Human Movements graduate, Robert has held a number of different positions before he received his first role in rugby league administration with the London Broncos. Robert returned to Queensland where he took up a post as the QRL's Education and Development Manager and later accepted a position with the State Government as the Deputy Director-General for Sport and Recreation Services. He returned to the QRL as Managing Director in August 2011.



L.W. ANDERSON

NORTHERN REGION CHAIR

Leigh's involvement in the game dates back to the mid 1960's through his playing days as a Townsville junior. Over the last four decades, Leigh has undertaken a myriad of roles in rugby league, from club coach to club President in junior and senior clubs, as a District and Leagues Club Board member, and as Independent Finance Director for the Northern Region. A Life Member of Townsville Brothers Rugby League and Townsville & District Junior Rugby League, Leigh is currently Chair of the QRL Northern Region.



R.M. GARARD

INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR | BBus FCA GAICD

Renita Garard AM was appointed as an Independent Director to the QRL Board in June 2017. She is a dual Olympic gold medallist, having been a member of the Australian Women's Hockey team from 1993 to 2000, while off the sporting field, she has fulfilled board roles with both the International Hockey Federation and Hockey Australia. She is currently Board Chair of the Port of Townsville Limited ("POTL"), and a Director of the 4 Aussie Heroes Foundation Limited. Renita is Chair of the QRL's Audit & Risk and People & Culture Committee.



B.A.C. IKIN

INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR

Co-host of NRL 360 on Fox Sports, Ben Ikin is one of the most respected voices in rugby league. Appointed to the QRL Board as an Independent Director in January 2018, Ben is a former professional rugby league footballer who first shot to prominence at 18 when he became the youngest player in State of Origin history to represent the Queensland Maroons. A Gold Coast junior, Ben went on to play 17 Origin matches for Queensland and two Tests for Australia. He played 150 top grade matches for the Gold Coast Seagulls, North Sydney Bears and Brisbane Broncos, winning the 2000 Premiership with the Broncos.



N.S. MCCARTHY

INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR | BSc

Former Australian water polo representative Naomi McCarthy OAM was appointed to the QRL Board as an Independent Director in January 2020. McCarthy represented Australia at two Olympic Games, as vice-captain of the gold medal winning team at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and as captain of her country at the 2004 Olympics in Athens. She has remained heavily involved in sport since her retirement, currently serving as a Board member of the Queensland Academy of Sport and previously as a director of Womensport Queensland. McCarthy is currently the manager of the Griffith Sports College, Griffith University, where she works closely with many professional and Olympic/Paralympic Sports and their elite athletes.



B.D. MCGUIRE

CENTRAL REGION CHAIR | DipT

As Chair of the QRL Central Region, Danny McGuire is serving his second stint on the QRL Board. He previously served on the Board from 2006-2009 and joined again in 2013. He had been Chair of the Wide Bay Region for nine years. Danny has been a coach and administrator with Sunshine Coast junior club Kawana (Life Member) and has served as Chair of the Sunshine Coast Rugby League. In 2010, he was inducted into the Sunshine Coast University Sports Hall of Fame for administrators. Danny also serves as Chair of the QRL Outback Committee.



B.A. TALLON

SOUTH EAST REGION CHAIR | BEng(Civil) BCom MBA GAICD

As Chair of the QRL South East Region since 2012, Brad oversees one of the biggest participation zones in the country. He has an abundance of experience, having previously served as the South East Region's Financial Director for 10 years, with three of those years on the QRL Board prior to the introduction of independent QRL Board members. He has held volunteer administrative positions in the game since 1984, including fifteen years as Treasurer of the BRL Referees' Association, and he was inaugural secretary of the QRL Referees' Board. Brad is a member of the QRL's Audit & Risk Committee and is an Executive General Manager at Holcim Australia, Deputy Chairman of Metromix Pty Ltd and a Director of Harwood Nominees Pty Ltd and Minicon Pty Ltd.



D.J. VAN DE VELDE

STATEWIDE COMPETITIONS DIRECTOR

Through his role as the Statewide Competitions Director, Darryl Van de Velde is actively involved in the development of Queensland's premier competition – the Intrust Super Cup. A well-known and respected rugby league identity, Darryl brings a wealth of experience to the position as a former professional rugby league footballer, coach and administrator. Darryl played club football in Queensland for Easts, Souths and Redcliffe and represented his state on one occasion in 1977. He coached Castleford and Warrington in England before becoming the Chief Executive Officer of the South Queensland Crushers club.

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

DIRECTORS	DIRECTORS' MEETINGS		AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
B.M. Hatcher	11	11	-	-
R.W. Moore	11	11	-	-
L.W. Anderson	11	11	-	-
R.M. Garard	11	11	6	6
B.A.C. Ikin	11	11	-	-
N.S. McCarthy	10	10	-	-
B.D. McGuire	11	11	-	-
W.B. Prescott	1	1	2	-
B.A. Tallon	11	11	8	8
D.J. Van de Velde	11	11	-	-
EXTERNAL A&R COMMITTEE MEMBER				
M.J.E. Thomsen	-	-	1	1

An external independent member, Ms Michelle Thomson, was appointed to the QRL Audit & Risk Committee in September 2020. Ms Thomson is not a director of the QRL.

COMPANY SECRETARY

G.F. Maher

G.F. Maher has been the Company Secretary of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited for four years. He is a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

MEMBERS GUARANTEE

The Company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$20 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 31 October 2020, the number of members was 9 (2019: 9). The combined total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company is wound up is \$180 (2019: \$180).

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

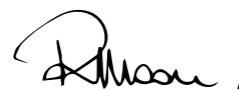
A copy of the auditor's independence declaration under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit for the financial year is provided with this report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



B.M. HATCHER

Chairman



R.W. MOORE

Director

Dated this 25th day of January 2021

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE DIRECTORS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

As lead auditor for the audit of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited for the financial year ended 31 October 2020, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



ERNST & YOUNG



MATTHEW TAYLOR

Partner

25 January 2021



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STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

	NOTES	2020 \$	2019 \$
REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS	4.1	17,641,330	31,500,641
Other income	4.2	2,273,397	1,523,983
Finance income		40,050	105,148
Less: Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(8,347,244)	(8,733,843)
Competitions		(4,580,939)	(11,973,764)
Representative teams		(1,049,473)	(5,066,683)
Grants to clubs and schools		(187,922)	(1,053,038)
Sponsor servicing		(457,254)	(1,256,351)
Referee development expenses		(298,980)	(809,328)
Development expenses		(141,274)	(457,280)
Commercial expenses		(1,082,591)	(1,244,844)
Administration expenses		(2,892,498)	(2,870,859)
Total expenses		(19,038,175)	(33,465,990)
Profit/(loss) for the year		916,602	(336,218)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year		916,602	(336,218)

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2020

	NOTES	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	9,696,586	6,382,350
Trade and other receivables	6	1,694,723	5,964,420
Inventories	7	141,620	95,252
Other assets	8	1,879,430	356,619
Total current assets		13,412,359	12,798,641
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	6	323,000	253,350
Plant and equipment	9	350,767	421,832
Intangible assets	10	163,067	207,539
Right-of-use assets	11	2,484,768	-
Total non-current assets		3,321,602	882,721
Total assets		16,733,961	13,681,362
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	12	1,637,615	2,201,438
Employee benefit liabilities	14	905,887	1,079,305
Provisions	15	61,646	295,382
Lease liabilities	11	529,563	-
Contract liabilities	13	3,928,106	3,676,871
Total current liabilities		7,062,817	7,252,996
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefit liabilities	14	276,410	249,008
Lease liabilities	11	2,298,774	-
Total non current liabilities		2,575,184	249,008
Total liabilities		9,638,001	7,502,004
Net assets		7,095,960	6,179,358
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		7,095,960	6,179,358
Total equity		7,095,960	6,179,358

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

	RETAINED EARNINGS	TOTAL EQUITY
	\$	\$
As at 1 November 2019	6,179,358	6,179,358
Profit for the year	916,602	916,602
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	916,602	916,602
As at 31 October 2020	7,095,960	7,095,960
As at 1 November 2018	6,515,576	6,515,576
Loss for the year	(336,218)	(336,218)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(336,218)	(336,218)
As at 31 October 2019	6,179,358	6,179,358

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

	NOTE	2020	2019
		\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers		23,343,286	34,932,311
Payments to suppliers and employees		(19,232,239)	(35,230,217)
Interest received		40,050	105,148
Interest and borrowing costs paid		(120,448)	-
Net cash flows from/(used in) used in operating activities	5	4,030,649	(192,758)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts on disposal of plant and equipment		18,109	-
Purchase of plant and equipment	9	(68,492)	(122,013)
Loans to associated parties		(117,650)	(104,350)
Repayment of loans from associated clubs		-	64,000
Purchase of intangible assets		-	(181,084)
Net cash flows used in investing activities		(168,033)	(343,447)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Lease principal repayment		(548,380)	-
Net cash flows used in financing activities		(548,380)	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		3,314,236	(536,205)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 November		6,382,350	6,918,555
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 October	5	9,696,586	6,382,350

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

NOTE 1: CORPORATE INFORMATION

The financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (the "QRL" or "Company") for the year ended 31 October 2020 was authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the directors on 25 January 2021.

The Company is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The registered office and principal place of business of the Company is Rugby League Central - Queensland, 83 Castlemaine Street, Milton, QLD 4064.

The nature of the operations and principal activities of the Company are described in the directors' report.

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other applicable authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report covers Queensland Rugby Football League Limited as an individual entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, unless otherwise stated in the notes.

The following are the significant accounting policies adopted by the Company in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

2.2 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES, DISCLOSURE, STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS

New and amended standards and interpretations

The Company applied AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* and AASB 16 *Leases* for the first time. The nature and effect of the changes as a result of adoption of these new accounting standards are described below.

Several other amendments and interpretations apply for the first time in 2019/2020, but do not have an impact on the financial statements of the Company.

AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*

AASB 15 supersedes AASB 118 *Revenue* and related Interpretations and it applies, with limited exceptions, to all revenue arising from contracts with its customers. AASB 15 establishes a five-step model to account for revenue arising from contracts with customers and requires that revenue be recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

AASB 15 requires entities to exercise judgement, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances when applying each step of the model to contracts with their customers. The standard also specifies the accounting for the incremental costs of obtaining a contract and the costs directly related to fulfilling a contract. In addition, the standard requires extensive disclosures.

The Company adopted AASB 15 using the full retrospective method of adoption. There was no significant impact on recognition or measurement in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of financial position or the statement of cash flows as a result of the adoptions but there has been a change in the required disclosures to reflect the requirements of the new accounting standard.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES, DISCLOSURE, STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS (CONTINUED)

New and amended standards and interpretations (continued)

AASB 1058 *Income of Not for Profit Entities*

AASB 1058 clarifies the income recognition requirements applying to not-for-profit entities and works in conjunction with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. AASB 1058 establishes principles applying to transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable a not-for-profit entity to further its objectives, and the receipt of volunteer services. The Company has adopted this Standard from 1 November 2019 and did not have a material impact on the Company's financial statements, accordingly there were no adjustments made to opening retained earnings.

AASB 16 *Leases*

AASB 16 replaces AASB 117 *Leases*, AASB Interpretation 4 *Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease*, AASB Interpretation 115 *Operating Leases-Incentives* and AASB Interpretation 127 *Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease*. The standard sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases and requires lessees to recognise most leases on the statement of financial position.

Lessor accounting under AASB 16 is substantially unchanged from AASB 117. Lessors will continue to classify leases as either operating or finance leases using similar principles as in AASB 117. Therefore, AASB 16 does not have an impact for leases where the Company is the lessor.

The Company adopted AASB 16 using the modified retrospective method of adoption, with the date of initial application of 1 November 2019. Under this method, the standard is applied retrospectively with the cumulative effect on initially applying the standard recognised at the date of initial application. The Company elected to use the transition practical expedient to not reassess whether a contract is, or contains, a lease at 1 November 2019. Instead, the Company applied the standard only to contracts that were previously identified as leases applying AASB 117 and AASB Interpretation 4 *Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease* at the date of initial application.

The Company has lease contracts for various items of property and motor vehicles. Before the adoption of AASB 16, the Company classified each of its leases (as lessee) at the inception date as an operating lease.

Upon adoption of AASB 16, the Company applied a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The standard provides specific transition requirements and practical expedients, which have been applied by the Company.

• Leases previously accounted for as operating leases

The Company recognised right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for those leases previously classified as operating leases, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The right-of-use assets for most leases were recognised based on the carrying amount as if the standard had always been applied, apart from the use of incremental borrowing rate at the date of initial application. In some leases, the right-of-use assets were recognised based on the amount equal to the lease liabilities, adjusted for any related prepaid and accrued lease payments previously recognised. Lease liabilities were recognised based on the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using the incremental borrowing rate at the date of initial application.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.2 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES, DISCLOSURE, STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS (CONTINUED)

New and amended standards and interpretations (continued)

AASB 16 Leases (continued)

The Company also applied the available practical expedients wherein it:

- Used a single discount rate to a portfolio of leases with reasonably similar characteristics
- Relied on its assessment of whether leases are onerous immediately before the date of initial application
- Applied the short-term leases exemptions to leases with lease term that ends within 12 months of the date of initial application
- Excluded the initial direct costs from the measurement of the right-of-use asset at the date of initial application
- Used hindsight in determining the lease term where the contract contained options to extend or terminate the lease

Based on the above, as at 1 November 2019:

- Right-of-use assets of \$3,054,059 were recognised and presented separately in the statement of financial position.
- Lease liabilities of \$3,349,442 were recognised.
- Lease provisions of \$295,382 were derecognised.

The lease liabilities as at 1 November 2019 can be reconciled to the operating lease commitments as of 31 October 2019, as follows:

	\$
Operating lease commitments disclosed as at 31 October 2019	4,956,988
Less: Operating lease GST adjustment	(450,635)
Less: Revised payment schedule	(511,744)
Operating lease commitments as at 31 October 2019	3,994,609
Weighted average incremental borrowing rate as at 1 November 2019	3.90%
Discounted operating lease commitments as at 1 November 2019	3,569,487
Less:	
Commitments relating to short-term leases	(150,000)
Commitments relating to leases of low-value assets	(70,045)
Lease liabilities as at 1 November 2019	3,349,442

Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective and have not been adopted by the Company for the annual reporting year ended 31 October 2020. The directors have not early adopted any of these new or amended standards or interpretations. The Company intends to adopt these new and amended standards and interpretations, if applicable, when they become effective.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Revenue recognition

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of the goods or services are transferred to the customer at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The Company has generally concluded that it is the principal in its revenue arrangements.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax ("GST").

Commercial revenue

Corporate hospitality and merchandise revenue are recognised at a point in time when control of the asset is transferred to the customer, generally on delivery of the goods. The normal credit term is 30 to 90 days upon delivery.

Membership subscriptions are recognised over the period the income relates.

Grant income

Grants from the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited ("ARLC") are recognised as revenue in the period in which the ARLC funding relates to the extent that expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the terms and conditions attaching to individual program funding and grants.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship and other revenue receipts are recognised in the profit or loss when the revenue is earned or when the fee in respect of the services have been rendered.

b) Other income

Government grants

Government grants are recognised where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attached conditions will be complied with. When the grant relates to an expense item, it is recognised as income on a systematic basis over the periods that the related costs, for which it is intended to compensate, are expensed. When the grant relates to an asset, it is recognised as income in equal amounts over the expected useful life of the related asset.

When the Company receives grants of non-monetary assets, the asset and the grant are recorded at nominal amounts and released to profit or loss over the expected useful life of the asset, based on the pattern of consumption of the benefits of the underlying asset by equal annual instalments.

JobKeeper payment scheme

The Federal Government's JobKeeper payment scheme is a subsidy for businesses significantly affected by COVID-19. JobKeeper payments that were received by the Company are recognised as other income.

c) Finance income

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking in to account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

d) Current versus non-current classification

The Company presents assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position based on current/non-current classification. An asset is current when it is:

- Expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the normal operating cycle
- Held primarily for the purpose of trading
- Expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period, or
- Cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is current when:

- It is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle
- It is held primarily for the purpose of trading
- It is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period, or
- There is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

The Company classifies all other liabilities as non-current.

e) Taxes

Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position comprise cash at bank and on hand and short-term deposits with a maturity of three months or less, which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

g) Trade and other receivables

A receivable represents the Company's right to an amount of consideration that is unconditional (i.e., only the passage of time is required before payment of the consideration is due). Trade receivables, which generally have 30-60 day terms, are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate (EIR) method, less an allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs). All trade receivables held by the Company are measured at amortised cost.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

g) Trade and other receivables (continued)

Loan receivables are initially recognised at fair value, carry no interest and are repayable on demand.

For trade receivables, the Company applies a simplified approach in calculating ECLs. Therefore, the Company does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Company has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

h) Inventories

Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

i) Plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held available for use, consistent with the estimated consumption of the economic benefits embodied in the asset.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Leasehold improvements at cost	10%	Straight-line
Plant and equipment at cost	10% - 50%	Diminishing value

j) Intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. Following initial recognition intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Internally generated intangibles, excluding capitalised development costs, are not capitalised and the related expenditure is reflected in profit or loss in the period in which the expenditure is incurred.

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed as either finite or indefinite, and amortisation is calculated accordingly once the asset has been set up and is available for use.

k) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value and are subsequently carried at amortised cost. Due to their short-term nature they are not discounted. They represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Company becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

l) Contract Liabilities

A contract liability is recognised if a payment is received or a payment is due (whichever is earlier) from a customer before the Company transfers the related goods or services. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the Company performs under the contract (i.e., transfers control of the related goods or services to the customer).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

m) Leases

The Company assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Company as a lessee

The Company applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The Company recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

(i) Right-of-use assets

The Company recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e., the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

- Property 10%
- Motor vehicles 33%

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Company at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

(ii) Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Company recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments include fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees. The lease payments also include the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Company and payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Company exercising the option to terminate. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as expenses (unless they are incurred to produce inventories) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Company uses its incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date because the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the lease payments (e.g., changes to future payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine such lease payments) or a change in the assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

(iii) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Company applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date and do not contain a purchase option). It also applies the lease of low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

n) Employee benefit liabilities

Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave and accumulated sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the statement of financial position.

Long-term employee benefit obligations

The provision for other long-term employee benefits, including obligations for long service leave and annual leave, which are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period, are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of the services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee turnover, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms approximating to the terms of the related obligation. For currencies in which there is no deep market in such high quality corporate bonds, the market yields (at the end of the reporting period) on government bonds denominated in that currency are used. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the change occurs.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur. All other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

o) Comparative figures

Where necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

The Company evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Company. Key estimates and judgements impacting the financial statements are as follows:

Recoverable amount of loan receivables

As at 31 October 2020, the Company had outstanding loan receivables with various rugby league clubs. As at the reporting date, management have assessed that these loans are not impaired.

Leases - Estimating the incremental borrowing rate

The Company cannot readily determine the interest rate implicit in the lease, therefore, it uses its incremental borrowing rate (IBR) to measure lease liabilities. The IBR is the rate of interest that the Company would have to pay to borrow over a similar term, and with a similar security, the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment. The IBR therefore reflects what the Company 'would have to pay', which requires estimation when no observable rates are available (such as for subsidiaries that do not enter into financing transactions) or when they need to be adjusted to reflect the terms and conditions of the lease (for example, when leases are not in the subsidiary's functional currency). The Company estimates the IBR using observable inputs (such as market interest rates) when available and is required to make certain entity-specific estimates (such as the subsidiary's stand-alone credit rating).

Determining the lease term of contracts with renewal options - Company as lessee

The Company determines the lease term as the non-cancellable term of the lease, together with any periods covered by an option to extend the lease if it is reasonably certain to be exercised, or any periods covered by an option to terminate the lease, if it is reasonably certain not to be exercised.

The Company has several lease contracts that include extension options. The Company applies judgement in evaluating whether it is reasonably certain whether or not to exercise the option to renew the lease. After the commencement date, the Company reassesses the lease term if there is a significant event or change in circumstances that is within its control and affects its ability to exercise or not to exercise the option to renew.

The Company did not include the extension option as part of the lease term of premises. Renewal options for leases of motor vehicles are not included as part of the lease term because the Company typically leases motor vehicles for not more than three years and, hence, is not exercising any renewal options.

4. REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

4.1 DISAGGREGATED REVENUE INFORMATION

Set out below is the disaggregation of the Company's revenue from contracts with customers:

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
TYPE OF GOODS OR SERVICE		
Partnership	2,336,517	8,717,640
ARLC funding	13,187,185	20,367,765
Other grants and subsidies	994,353	420,000
Commercial revenues	1,123,275	1,995,236
Total revenue from contracts with customers	17,641,330	31,500,641

Revenues in FY20 were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic with ARLC funding reduced as a result of broadcast renegotiation and cost saving measures implemented by the ARLC. Revenue was also impacted by the renegotiation of QRL partnership agreements and the timing of the 2020 State of Origin series.

4.2 OTHER INCOME

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Federal Government - JobKeeper payment	2,002,500	-
State Government - Payroll tax relief	72,544	-
Other revenue	198,353	1,523,983
Total other income	2,273,397	1,523,983

5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	4,689,414	1,582,040
Short-term deposits	5,007,172	4,800,310
	9,696,586	6,382,350

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise the above.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (CONTINUED)

	2020	2019
Cash flow reconciliation		
Profit/(loss) after tax	916,602	(336,218)
Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	717,606	125,946
Amortisation and impairment of intangible assets	44,473	14,824
Bad debts written off	100	6,306
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	408	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables	4,317,597	(3,834,445)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(46,368)	67,279
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	(1,522,811)	154,886
Decrease in trade and other payables	(563,823)	(121,170)
(Decrease)/Increase in employee benefit liabilities	(146,016)	327,996
Increase in provisions	61,646	39,060
Increase in contract liabilities	251,235	3,362,778
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	4,030,649	(192,758)

6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	1,702,581	5,939,970
Allowance for expected credit losses	(98,108)	(17,800)
Loan receivables	90,250	42,250
	1,694,723	5,964,420
Non-Current		
Loan Receivables	323,000	253,350

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are usually paid within 30 days.

7. INVENTORIES

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Merchandise for sale	141,620	95,252

8. OTHER ASSETS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Prepayments	1,879,430	356,619

Prepayments at 31 October 2020 includes amounts related to the delivery of the State of Origin series in November 2020 and flight credits with airline partners available to the QRL for use in the 2021 financial year.

9. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
Cost			
At 1 November 2019	998,170	272,509	1,270,679
Additions	68,492	-	68,492
Disposals	(41,295)	-	(41,295)
At 31 October 2020	1,025,367	272,509	1,297,876
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 November 2019	760,156	88,691	848,847
Depreciation charge for the year	92,761	28,279	121,040
Disposals	(22,778)	-	(22,778)
At 31 October 2020	830,139	116,970	947,109
Net Book Value			
At 31 October 2020	195,228	155,539	350,767
At 31 October 2019	238,014	183,818	421,832

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

10. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	SOFTWARE
	\$
Cost	
At 1 November 2019	222,364
At 31 October 2020	222,364
Accumulated amortisation	
At 1 November 2019	14,824
Amortisation	44,473
At 31 October 2020	59,297
Net Book Value	
At 31 October 2020	163,067
At 31 October 2019	207,539

11. LEASES

Company as a lessee

The Company has lease contracts for various items of property and motor vehicles used in its operations. Leases of property have lease term of 10 years, while motor vehicles generally have lease terms of 3 years. The Company's obligations under its leases are secured by the lessor's title to the leased assets.

The Company also has certain leases of premises with lease terms of 12 months or less and leases of office equipment with low value. The Company applies the 'short-term lease' and 'lease of low-value assets' recognition exemptions for these leases.

Set out below are the carrying amounts of right-of-use assets recognised and the movements during the period:

	PROPERTY	MOTOR VEHICLES	TOTAL
At 1 November 2019 (on adoption of AASB 16)	2,757,825	296,234	3,054,059
Additions	-	27,275	27,275
Depreciation expense	(435,454)	(161,112)	(596,566)
As at 31 October 2020	2,322,371	162,397	2,484,768

11. LEASES (CONTINUED)

Company as a lessee (continued)

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities and the movements during the period:

	2020
	\$
As at 1 November	3,349,442
Additions	27,275
Accretion of interest	120,448
Payments	(668, 828)
At 31 October	2,828,337
Current	529,563
Non-current	2,298,774

The following are the amounts recognised in profit or loss:

	2020
	\$
Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	596,566
Interest expense on lease liabilities	120,448
Expense relating to short-term leases	45,142
Expense relating to leases of low-value assets	66,189
	828,345

The Company had total cash outflows for leases of \$780,159 in 2020. The Company also had non-cash additions to right-of-use assets and lease liabilities of \$27,275 in 2020.

12. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade creditors	984,324	407,969
Sundry creditors and accruals	621,409	1,219,947
GST payable	31,882	573,522
	1,637,615	2,201,438

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

13. CONTRACT LIABILITIES

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Current liabilities	<u>3,928,106</u>	<u>3,676,871</u>

Contract liabilities is comprised of income received from/invoiced to sponsors and partners of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited prior to 31 October 2020 which relates to the financial year ending 31 October 2021.

Grant funding received in advance from the Australian Rugby League Commission for the 2021 financial year is also included in contract liabilities, although there is no requirement to repay these amounts at balance date.

14. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Annual leave	614,536	810,548
Long service leave	291,351	268,757
	<u>905,887</u>	<u>1,079,305</u>
Non-current		
Long service leave	<u>276,410</u>	<u>249,008</u>

15. PROVISIONS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current		
Lease straight-lining	-	295,382
Redundancy	61,646	-
	<u>61,646</u>	<u>295,382</u>

	LEASE STRAIGHT-LINING	REDUNDANCY
	\$	\$
At 1 November 2018	256,322	-
Arising during the year	39,060	-
At 31 October 2019	<u>295,382</u>	<u>-</u>
De-recognition from AASB 16 adoption	(295,382)	-
Arising during the year	-	61,646
At 31 October 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>61,646</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Key management personnel compensation

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Compensation paid to key management personnel	<u>1,458,071</u>	<u>1,589,382</u>

The following were key management personnel of the Company at any time during the reporting period, and unless otherwise indicated were key management personnel for the entire period:

Name	Appointment/resignation details
Directors	
B.M. Hatcher	Chairman
R.W. Moore	Managing Director
L.W. Anderson	QRL Northern Region Chair
R.M. Garard	Independent Director
B.A.C. Ikin	Independent Director
N.S. McCarthy	Independent Director appointed 31 January 2020
B.D. McGuire	QRL Central Region Chair
W.B. Prescott	Independent Director retired 31 January 2020
B.A. Tallon	QRL South East Region Chair
D.J. Van De Velde	State-wide Competitions Director
Senior Leadership	
G.F. Maher	Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary
G.F. Ottaway	Regional General Manager
R. Sawyer	Chief Operating Officer
J.L. Shand	Chief Human Resource Manager

The amounts disclosed in the table are the amounts recognised as an expense during the reporting period related to key management personnel.

17. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Lease commitments - Company as lessee

The Company has no lease contracts that have not yet commenced as at 31 October 2020.

Contingencies

The directors are not aware of any contingent assets or contingent liabilities that have arisen in respect of the Company during the year (2019: \$nil).

18. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Company is dependent upon the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited ("ARLC") providing funding which is used in fostering and further developing the game of rugby league in Queensland.

19. MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The Company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a Company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$20 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 31 October 2020, the number of members was 9 (2019: 9). The combined total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company is wound up is \$180 (2019: \$180).

20. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 31 October 2020 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 31 October 2020, of the Company, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or
- (c) the state of affairs, in financial years subsequent to 31 October 2020, of the Company.

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited, I state that:

In the opinion of the directors:

- (a) the financial statements and notes of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited for the financial year ended 31 October 2020 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 October 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



B.M. HATCHER
Chairman



R.W. MOORE
Managing Director

Dated this 25 day of January 2021

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED

OPINION

We have audited the financial report of Queensland Rugby Football League Limited (the Company) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 October 2020, the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 October 2020 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUDITOR'S REPORT THEREON

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information is the annual report accompanying the financial report, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIMITED (CONTINUED)

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ernst & Young
ERNST & YOUNG

Matthew Taylor

MATTHEW TAYLOR
Partner
25 January 2021





ABN 65 009 878 013