

Statement 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017

The formation of an Association of NPL clubs for Australia

“On Monday evening, a delegation of Victorian NPL Clubs and other Victorian football key stakeholders met to discuss the potential effects upon the NPL stemming from the ongoing developments in the governance of football in Australia.

The meeting was held against the backdrop of FFA’s announcement that it is working on a new Constitution and governance model following FIFA’s recent visit to Australia, agitation by the A League franchisees which are pursuing an increased say and CEO David Gallop and Chairman Steven Lowy flying to Zurich in February seeking further talks with FIFA.

Nationwide, the NPL Clubs have been expressing their increasing unease that they don’t have an adequate voice at the FFA table to express their concerns and to have them properly considered. The NPL concept was established by FFA to serve a crucial role in the development of elite players and the advancement of the game. The NPL Clubs have been tasked across the country with the delivery of these aims. So it is the NPL clubs which face the daily challenges of doing so, including coping with insufficient funding and often with inadequate facilities while receiving limited support from their governing bodies. It falls to the NPL clubs to control spiralling costs while addressing the legitimate concerns of players and parents.

Just as the A League franchisees formed The Australian Professional Football Clubs Association to represent their interest to FFA, the NPL Clubs resolved to form their own association of clubs. All NPL Clubs across Australia will be invited to join and already many NPL Clubs have expressed their desire to join. The NPL clubs look forward to working constructively with FFA and the state federations to ensure their legitimate concerns are heard and accommodated in the new governance structure, and appropriate outcomes and solutions are achieved, for the benefit of the game both now and in future.”

End of Statement

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