



Jarrold Bird
Sports Turf Association of Queensland
PO Box 5203
Alexandra Hills, QLD 4161
30/03/2020

Hon Michael de Brenni
Minister for Sport
Queensland State Parliament
PO Box 2457
Brisbane, QLD 4001

Dear Hon Michael de Brenni:

The Sports Turf Association of Queensland would like the State and Federal Government to consider placing Sports Turf Managers on the essential services list during this time of crisis in Queensland, Australia and Globally.

Many community sports clubs may be driven to close due to the loss of income bought on by the implementation of social distancing rules. These clubs play an important role in the mental and physical health of all Australians and are an integral part of our Australian lifestyle.

Stadiums around the country are also an integral part to Australia's sports and entertainment industry and brings in millions of dollars a year of revenue for the government and local businesses.

If the sports turf surfaces throughout Australia are left unattended it is conservatively estimated that it could cost the Australian sports turf industry in excess of \$5 Billion. This loss also has flow on effects to turf growers, irrigation industries and retail industries dependent on the purchase of agricultural materials.

Certain sports require unique maintenance to ensure the usability and safety of the surface. If not maintained properly, the cost of repair may force some clubs to close or take on more debt to correct issues that would stop them from playing.

The Sports Turf Association of Queensland is asking for Sports Turf managers to be listed as essential services so we can ensure jobs and capital assets of clubs, councils, schools and government are protected. This will ensure, when this is all over, that Australia can hit the ground running. Sports will be able to start immediately without delay, children will have sports



turf to exercise on, governments and communities will be able to begin earning revenue as soon as a decision is made to lift social distancing regulations.

Our Association is made up of a diverse group of Sport Turf Managers, Grounds people, Greenkeepers and Apprentices. Each of these groups are committed to ensure that the way of life in our country, that we are all accustomed to, remains achievable after such a momentous crisis as the COVID-19 virus.

We would like to thank you for your time and would like to congratulate the government on the way they are handling the crisis at the moment. We look forward to working with you to get the best out of our great state and country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB", written in a cursive style.

Jarrod Bird
President
Sports Turf Association of Queensland