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## Independent audit report to the members of Essendon Football Club

### Scope

We have audited the Community Benefits Statement of the Essendon Football Club for the year ended 30 June 2008. The Directors are responsible for the Community Benefit Statement and we have conducted an independent audit of that Community Benefit Statement in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

Our audit has been conducted under the requirements of section 3.6.9 of the Gambling Regulation Act 2003 and in accordance with other information as issued from The Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or the statement to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any purpose other than that for which it is prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance that the Community Benefit Statement is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the calculation of amounts and other disclosures in the Community Benefit Statement, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates used. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion on whether, in all material respects, the Community Benefit Statement is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of the Gambling Regulation Act 2003.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### Independence

In conducting our review, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

#### Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the Community Benefit Statement in relation to the Essendon Football Club presents fairly, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in Australia, and, consistent with the auditor's understanding of sections 3.6.9(2) (a) and (b) of the Gambling Regulation Act 2003 (the Act) the Essendon Football Club's compliance with the Act, in relation to the Essendon Football Club for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.



GRANT THORNTON  
Chartered Accountants



D.A. Ashmore  
Partner

Melbourne

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008