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Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Hawthorn Football Club

Opinion

We have audited the attached Community Benefit Statement (the 'Statement') of Hawthorn Football Club - Vegas at Waverley Gardens (the 'Club') for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

In our opinion, the financial information in the Statement of the Club from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with sections 3.6.9(2)(a) and (b) of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003*.

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 Statement* section of our report. We are independent of the Club in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the Statement in Australia, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Reliance

The Statement is prepared to assist the Club to meet the requirements section 3.6.9(2) (a) and (b) of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003*. As a result, the Statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Club and the Victorian Commission of Gaming and Liquor Regulation (collectively the 'Recipients') and should not be distributed to parties other than the Recipients. A party other than the Recipients accessing this report does so at their own risk and Ernst & Young expressly disclaims all liability to a party other than the Recipients for any costs, loss, damage, injury or other consequence which may arise directly or indirectly from their use of, or reliance on the report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Statement

The Club's management is responsible for the preparation of the Statement in accordance with section 3.6.9(2)(a) and (b) of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the Statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the Statement, management is responsible for assessing the Club's ability to continue as a going concern and disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Statement 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 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 Statement.

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the Statement, 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 Club's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, and related disclosures made by management.

We communicate with the directors, 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

Melbourne
26 September 2022