

## CENTRE EXPRESSES REGRET AT TAI PANS DEMISE

AEG Ogden, the Operator of the Cairns Convention Centre has expressed regret at today's announcement that the Cairns Taipans had gone into voluntary administration.

Convention Centre Managing Director, Geoff Donaghy said today they were disappointed as much for the local community and their love of sport as they were for the Taipans team.

Mr Donaghy said Hall 2 at the Centre where basketball was played was used for around 120 days of the year for various events such as conventions, gala dinners and concerts.

"Of those, the Taipans used the Hall for between 15 to 17 days meaning that losses to the Centre's revenue streams are not insurmountable. In fact, the entire projected rental revenue for this season which represented only a small proportion of the Taipans operating budget is less than the return from one medium sized convention."

Mr Donaghy said that correspondence had been exchanged recently between the Centre and the Taipans in anticipation of meeting to discuss a new hiring agreement which was central to their application for a new NBL licence.

"While we needed to receive certain financial undertakings from the Taipans prior to this meeting, we anticipated a formal hiring agreement could have been in place quickly that would have allowed the Taipans to lodge its licence application. But that now appears to be past history," he said.

Mr Donaghy reiterated that the Taipans' existing rental arrangement – negotiated and accepted by the current Directors – was one of the better deals in the NBL, and that despite Taipans management claims, no other venue deals provided hiring franchises with catering revenue rebates.

Mr Donaghy said the Centre had already contacted the NBL to offer assistance with any options they may consider for the balance of this season.

"We also indicated the Centre was available to other potential NBL consortia interested in playing there in future.

"We have also contacted the administrator to discuss amounts outstanding to the Centre," Mr Donaghy said.

**ENDS**

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