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CLUBS AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA INQUIRY

Clubs Australia welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Standing Committee on Industry, Science, and Resources inquiry into Food and Beverage Manufacturing in Australia.

Clubs Australia represents 6,000 licensed clubs that employ more than 140,000 people. Clubs are not-for-profit, member-owned organisations whose central activity is to provide sporting and recreation infrastructure to their members and the wider community.

Food and beverage offerings serve as a critical revenue stream for clubs. From state-of-the-art dishes to unique craft beers and wine, clubs provide a variety of dining and refreshment options for their local communities.

Consumers have shown a growing interest in sourcing Australian-made products from clubs. Certain venues craft goods on-site, ranging from pastries to beer and spirits, while others depend on domestic manufacturing suppliers. Clubs are increasingly interested in establishing micro-breweries and small distilleries on their premises.

Clubs actively support emissions reduction in their manufacturing operations, adopting a range of energy-efficient practices, such as voltage optimisation technology and food recycling systems.

Clubs' efforts to diversify through the inclusion of small distilleries and micro-breweries have expanded consumer choice options, thereby increasing patronage at venues and enhancing social connectivity. The Basement Brewhouse, a popular gathering spot for sports enthusiasts at Bankstown Sports, offers craft beers, ciders, wine, and cocktails.

Distilleries and breweries have increased tourism, especially in regional areas. In regional NSW, Wests Cardiff features a small batch micro-brewery that produces a variety of beers under the Cardiff Brewery Label, available on tap at the bar. This offering has increased the number of club visitors, attracting both locals and tourists.

Clubs Australia supports opportunities to enhance innovation and value-adding in the Australian food and beverage manufacturing industry. A flexible and modern legislative and regulatory framework is essential for achieving this.

Expanding Australian-made manufacturing will contribute to a prosperous, sustainable, and resilient economy.

Clubs Australia appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission. For further information, please contact Alison Tehan, Executive Manager of Regulatory Affairs, at atehan@clubsaustralia.com.au or 0455 284 411.