

## **Communication to Lakers Members**

**Monday 15 December 2025 5:44pm**

### **Dear Lakers families,**

Tonight, Emerald Lakers Basketball Club will hold its Annual General Meeting. At this AGM, six of the eight current committee members have chosen not to re-nominate. This has been a difficult decision, made after many years of loyalty and commitment to the club.

Several members of the committee have served for more than a decade. Across that time, many dedicated volunteers have contributed to the club's growth, always prioritising basketball and the wellbeing of our players. In recent months, some committee decisions and processes have been questioned, and the executive committee has been placed under significant scrutiny. Throughout this period, the executive has remained committed to acting in the best interests of the club.

There has also been increased social media activity relating to the club and its governance. The committee has chosen not to engage publicly, in order to maintain the professionalism and integrity expected of us. Individually, we have also aimed to uphold our own values and positive conduct.

We understand that commentary online has included references to the committee. Some of this commentary has created confusion and concern within the community. We are saddened that this situation has caused uncertainty for some families, and we apologise to anyone who has felt unsettled by the discussions taking place.

Allegations regarding dishonesty, secrecy, or poor governance do not reflect the reality of the committee's work. Throughout this period, the committee has sought guidance from relevant sporting and regulatory bodies to ensure that all actions taken were consistent with required processes and best practice.

Emerald Lakers Basketball Club has always existed to provide a positive environment for players to enjoy the game they love. Recently, differing views about the club's direction have made it challenging to continue our work constructively. While differences of opinion are a natural part of any community organisation, the level of tension that has emerged has made it difficult for the current executive committee to continue effectively.

When I stepped into the president role 7–8 years ago, after three years on the committee, the club had 16 teams and \$17,000 in the bank. Since then, the club has continued to grow—even through the challenges of COVID—reaching 46 teams this season and holding more than \$70,000 in funds. This reflects the strong governance and dedication of many volunteers over many years.

For more than a decade, the club has operated smoothly under successive committees. This is the first time we have experienced this level of internal pressure. A requisition expressing a lack of confidence in the executive committee has been submitted by more than 5% of members. While we respect the right of members to raise concerns, we do not believe the requisition reflects the full picture of the committee's work or intentions.

After careful consideration, the executive committee has decided not to re-nominate at the AGM and will step down from our roles effective immediately. Protecting our wellbeing is important, and the intensity of recent months has taken a toll. There will be no further communication from the outgoing executive committee via club channels.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the many Lakers families who have supported us—not only in recent months, but throughout the past decade. Serving this community has been a privilege, and we have always valued the warmth, kindness, and partnership shown by so many of you.

We have always enjoyed our time working as your committee and supporting community sport, to the players and families, your support, warmth and love has been felt.

Kind Regards

Lakers Executive Committee