To:	Community Affairs, Committee (SEN)
Subject:	RE: Senate Community Affairs References Committee - Future of Rugby union - Submission
Date:	Thursday, 12 October 2017
Attachments:	123. ARU Minutes (WP16).pdf 124. Paper by Anthony French (WP17).pdf

Dear Senate Committee,

I wish to make a "**name withheld submission** " to the committee's *Future of rugby union in Australia* inquiry.

I [redacted] Senate Enquiry and took note in particular of the Statements made by Rob Clarke former COO of the Australian Rugby Union (ARU). I wish to refute a number of statements I recall he made today as follows:

1. Mr Clarke stated that there were no discussions at the ARU around the concept of reducing the Australian Super Rugby before the ARU entered into the Alliance Agreement with Rugby WA and indeed that this concept was not discussed until 2017. I submit for your revue a copy of the Minutes of the ARU board meeting of August 18th 2016 where the concept was raised by Rob Clarke (Item 6) and tabled at the meeting. Reminding the Senator that the Alliance was executed 26th August 2016.
2. I also attach the Paper prepared by Mr French that is referenced in the Board Minutes. Note that this recommends financial advantages gained by:
    a. Reduction to 4 teams
    b. Revision of those 4 teams from their current "Participation" contracts to Alliance Agreements of a similar nature to the one ultimately executed with Rugby WA (saving administration costs)
    c. Further reduction savings by terminating 2 teams specifically the Western Force and the ACT Brumbies
3. I believe that Mr Clarke today also submitted that the Brumbies were not considered for exclusion because of their financial security which is in conflict with Managements statements in the attached French report
4. Finally Mr Clarke went to great pains to advise the enquiry today that Lavan Legal under Rugby WA direction wrote the very Alliance Agreement that provided the avenue for the ARU to cut the Force yet he omitted to clarify that the ARU in a revised draft provided the precise wording that was later utilised to define their legal position to terminate the Alliance and hence remove the Western Force from the Super Rugby competition.

The above for your consideration.