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## Press Release

13 January 2012

The Board of Wests Ashfield Leagues Club would like to make the following points in relation to matters raised in the media in the past few days;

Wests Ashfield Leagues (WAL) is a shareholder in the Joint venture known as Wests Tigers (WT),

WAL has continued to work with WT to achieve the best possible outcomes for the JV, whilst continuing to support and respect the heritage, history, and contribution of the Western Suburbs District Rugby League Club – The Magpies (WSM).

WAL has agreed, in principle, to support the conduct of a single NSW Cup team, representative of both JV clubs, in season 2013. Furthermore, WT and WAL have agreed that –

- o WSM is recognised as the district club in the Campbelltown area,
- o WSM will continue to participate (as the Magpies) in junior representative Harold Matthews and S G Ball and, where appropriate, other competitions,
- o WSM retains all of its rights, including the ability to review the operation of a single State Cup team in future years,
- o WT continues to work with WSM to ensure that appropriate pathways are met for the junior RL players in the south west,
- o The 2013 combined SC playing strip would alternate between Wests and Balmain colours.

WAL recognises the significant financial contribution required to meet obligations to all RL stakeholders and the need to prioritise the appropriation of available funding to meet these needs.

WAL deputy chairman Russell Smith said *“it is important to keep focus on the real issues at play in this situation. WAL remains totally committed to the continuing sustainable role of Wests Magpies as a vital component in the structure of Rugby League to continue to provide a well defined and positive pathway for aspiring players in the Campbelltown and surrounding regions, and has confidence in the management of the WT JV as portrayed in the results that have been achieved in the recent past”*.

Changes to the Wests Magpies Board will take affect next week, and the new Board will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure all normal operations and functions of a district club continue in what will be a fruitful 2012 season and a bright future.

*end*