



Tooheys Newcastle Rugby League Media Release 3 September, 2021

After consultation with all Denton Engineering Cup Clubs a Board Meeting was called at 7pm on Thursday 2 September, 2021.

The Board after taking into consideration the information from the Denton Engineering Cup Clubs, the current NSW Government Health advice, financial implications of continuing the competition and most importantly player welfare unanimously with the majority support of the clubs decided that the 2021 Denton Engineering Cup, Tooheys Newcastle Reserve Grade and Under 19 competitions will not progress any further this year.

Whilst it is disappointing that the competition cannot be completed after such a successful and competitive season, the issue of player welfare after having not been able to play for an extended period, the risk factors associated with the Delta variant of Covid and with the highly unlikely approval for teams to train together let alone play against each other, the Newcastle Rugby League Board took the decision to cancel the final series. The Chairman John Crooks said, 'Player welfare is paramount in our decision making and the risk of injury after such a long lay off is too high. The possibility of restrictions being lifted to a level that would allow teams to have enough preparation time to play in the next few weeks is very low and with the highly contagious Delta variant the risk of transmission of the disease between players in close contact is also one we cannot take.' He added, 'This season has been one of the best in recent times and I want to congratulate all clubs and players on their performance, under the circumstances the efforts of all those involved in managing a club and team have been outstanding. Tooheys Newcastle Rugby League is proud of the efforts of all and look forward to next season which already looks extremely promising.'

Tooheys Newcastle Rugby League would like to congratulate Maitland Pickers on their outstanding season and taking out the Denton Engineering Cup Minor Premiership, unfortunately without the opportunity to play the final series 2021 will not have a Grand Final winner and will leave the Denton Engineering Cup Trophy with an asterisk for 2021.

John Crooks acknowledged all the sponsors involved in this year's competition, in particular our major sponsors Tooheys, Denton Engineering and our Representative Team sponsor A Plus Contracting. This year's competition is certainly one to remember and the standard of the games have been extremely high. Supporter numbers at games have been great, our following in the media, including social media and Bartv has been exceptional and we can only see this growing in 2022.'

In the Tooheys Newcastle Rugby Lower grades, new comers the Northern Hawks took out the minor premiership in Reserve Grade and South Newcastle took out the Under 19's minor premiership.

For any further details please contact Charlie Haggett CEO Newcastle Rugby League on 0466 642 070.

