



Senator Jacqui Lambie Senator for Tasmania

24 July 2015

The Hon. Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Employment
136 Davey St
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Senator Abetz,

Re: Stop holding the Cadbury funds for ransom

The Burnie International is a successful and renowned event that generates \$850,000 into the local economy on a yearly basis. If you add that up over the last 13 years of the tournament running, that figure equates to around 11 million dollars that generates back into the State economy.

Given the current condition of the courts, surface reconstruction is urgently needed to bring the facility up to the standard that is required by Tennis Australia. If this is not done then the Burnie International will be cancelled and potentially allocated to another State.

The cost of the court reconstruction is \$1.1 million with \$670K being funded by the Burnie Tennis Club, Burnie Council, Tennis Australia and the State Government. That leaves \$430K which I believe should come out of the \$15 million unallocated Cadbury pool.

My reasons why are listed below;

- We will need these courts ready for action for the Masters games to be held in the North & Northwest in 2017
- The Masters games alone will generate an additional \$9 million into the economy
- The Burnie International is the biggest annual sporting event in Northwest Tasmania
- There are also 8 additional tournaments throughout the year held at Burnie Tennis Club which generate further revenue to the local community
- The Burnie International gives Tasmanians access to mainland events that they may not have the opportunity to attend
- Live streamed all around the World it is a great way to promote Tasmania

I urge you to act upon this now as the closing date is **Friday 31st July** and then Tennis Australia will have no other option but to cancel this event. Another significant loss to the community, one that can be easily avoided.

If the funding is granted then this event will remain with Burnie for an additional 5 years – generating a further \$4.5 million into the State economy. The amount we are asking for is only 10% of what the State will make back in revenue.

You have in your hands \$15 million of Cadbury funds which you are holding for ransom and there is no acceptable reason for you to keep this money. Release it and keep the Burnie International in Tasmania's portfolio.



Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JL', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania

Cc The Hon. Tony Abbott, Prime Minister
The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Warren Truss, Deputy Prime Minister
The Hon. Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania