

Darcy Byrne Inner West Mayor



8 December 2025

Dear Chairman V'landys,

I am writing to request your personal intervention and that of the National Rugby League into the governance of Wests Tigers.

The hundreds of thousands of Wests Tigers fans across the country need you to take action now if our beloved Club is to survive.

Thank you for your outstanding leadership of our game, your strong public comments this past week advocating for the fans of Wests Tigers, and your insistence that the joint venture must remain as a united NRL team and cannot be disbanded.

Unfortunately, the destructive actions of the Holman Barnes Group Board in recent days, as well as their record of poor governance of Wests Tigers over the past 15 years, shows that the franchise cannot succeed and will likely not survive if left under their control.

The Holman Barnes Group Board has now sacked 8 directors, 2 chairman and 1 CEO in the past year.

This includes the unilateral removal of directors of their own Board as well as dispensing with 4 independent directors of Wests Tigers, whom they had appointed only 11 months previously.

At the time of writing they are also publicly foreshadowing the removal of Shane Richardson as CEO of Wests Tigers, despite the clear and demonstrable improvement in the performance of the Club since his appointment.

By any measure this chaotic conduct by the controlling group constitutes a dysfunctional administration and justifies the NRL intervening to ensure proper governance of Wests Tigers and to protect the future of the NRL Club.

There is a long history and precedence for the NRL intervening to uphold the interests of the game and its fans when maladministration such as this has occurred.

This has included intervention by the NRL in the boards of the Newcastle Knights (2014), Gold Coast Titans (2015) and the Parramatta Eels (2016).

The NRL also has previously intervened in board of Wests Tigers in 2014 after a period of extremely poor governance.

I note that a number of the people responsible for that situation are still playing a central role in the current debacle.

It is entirely justified and within the power of the NRL to intervene to fix the governance of Wests Tigers now.

This could include, as a condition of the Wests Tigers NRL licence, the mandating of majority of independent directors to the board of the franchise as well as the direct appointment of directors by the NRL itself.

The reappointment of the 4 sacked independent directors, who had been doing an excellent job of turning Wests Tigers around, would also be welcomed by the vast majority of the Club's supporters.

The Wests Magpies and Balmain Tigers combined represent well over two centuries of rugby league history and heritage.

Despite the way that supporters have been let down by abominable administration, we remain amongst the most passionate and loyal fans in the league.

The Wests Tigers is the sleeping giant of the NRL.

With your intercession now to fix the administration of our Club, we can go on to give a whole new generation something to cheer for.

Without your help, the current amateurish administration will surely oversee the death of the Wests Tigers as an NRL team.

I request that the NRL act urgently in the interests of Wests Tigers fans to secure the future of the Club we love.

Yours sincerely,

Clr Darcy Byrne
Inner West Mayor