



MEDIA RELEASE

WABL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENT

FLOREAT (Sept. 7, 2018) -- The Western Australian Basketball League is pleased to announce that the Hills Raiders Basketball Association (HRBA) have been granted access into the competition in 2019, the first Association to do so since Lakeside Lightning in 1995.

Following an extensive 15-month review process spanning back to mid-2017, the Basketball WA Board have supported management to facilitate the growth of WABL, a move which acknowledges the demand for an elite, state-wide basketball competition. HRBA were active throughout the review process and have met all requirements set by the League to consider their entry.

"We are all so elated to finally join the WABL movement, a dream come true for our members!" Deb White-Kiely of the HRBA Committee said in a club statement. "Over the last 8 years we have run a very successful schools programme within our local community, reaching over 700 junior students each year which feed our 167 domestic teams. Hills Raiders aim to produce very competitive WABL teams across all grades with the utmost sportsmanship and enthusiasm."

The Committee also expressed their gratitude to those who made the induction possible. "Special thanks to the Mundaring Shire, Kirk Kitchin, our past and present supportive members including Robert Little, Mike Wilkinson, Bev and Lance Elliott, and Basketball WA who without their support the excitement of joining WABL would not have been a reality."

WABL League Manager Darrsh Clarke considers the move a major strategic step forward for the sport.

"We as a League consider this a huge win, not only for the competition but for basketball in Western Australia. Moves like this are what we set out to achieve five years ago through the WABL Five Year Plan; revolutionising the structure to make it conducive for growth and development. Perth's population has nearly doubled since Lakeside joined the competition in 1995, yet we still had the same 12 Associations. HRBA have shown us their intent by getting out into schools, growing their resources and lobbying local government for a new stadium. With change comes challenge, but this is a no-brainer for us, especially given the exciting growth initiatives in the North-East corridor. "

The League will work closely with all 13 junior WABL Associations to ensure a seamless, phased induction of HRBA into the competition. In addition to the news of HRBA, the League will be implementing moderate changes to the current Grading structure and rules, which it anticipates will make for a higher level of competition. All changes will be communicated to WABL stakeholders through their respective Associations.

About HRBA

Hills Raiders Basketball Association was established in 1972 and are located in the Shire of Mundaring. HRBA are comprised of over 1000 registered members, 9 affiliated clubs as well as independent teams within the Association. HRBA are no strangers to Basketball WA competitions, regularly sending competitive teams to the annual BWA State Championships. They currently operate out of Mundaring Arena, a brand new \$10.1M facility 35km east of the Perth CBD, which was completed and opened in May 2018.



MUNDARING ARENA, HOME OF THE HILLS RAIDERS – FACADE AND CAR PARK



MUNDARING ARENA, HOME OF THE HILLS RAIDERS – ENTRY, FOYER AND KIOSK



MUNDARING ARENA, HOME OF THE HILLS RAIDERS – LOFT OVERLOOKING COURTS