

## MEDIA RELEASE – MEDIA RELEASE

## Wolves gearing up in their hunt to return to the national stage

The region has intensified its moves to return to the nation's national football competition.

Following Football Federation Australia's announcement in late June whereby it shortlisted the Wollongong Wolves as a prospective bidder for the two team expansion of the Hyundai A-League in 2019/20, the club has drawn together a group of key people to enhance the next phase of their submission.

The Wollongong Wolves Expansion Committee consists of prominent local business figures including Tory Lavalle (Multi Civil and Rail Services), Angela Bernardi (BLG Business Advisers) Chris Sheppard and Craig Osborne (RMB Lawyers), Chris Halios-Lewis (WIN Television Finance Manager) and Paul Knight (MD – Djenbella Group / CEO - Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council). The team is complimented by a host of external consultants providing particular expertise in key areas.

Renowned international footballer Luke Wilkshire (Former Socceroo and current Wollongong Wolves FC player) has also been added to the group who will drive the club's A-League expansion bid.

Mr Wilkshire said "I'm incredibly proud to be a key part of the group that brings national football back to the South Coast region".

"The Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League are the pinnacle of domestic football in Australia. The opportunity to have a club in our region participating in those leagues will be a tremendous boost in terms of development pathways and affirmation of our territory's historic football culture."

Luke continued to say, "Our region draws on over 530,000 people. Having teams in the nation's elite football competitions will provide supporters from this area with the chance to get to WIN Stadium to watch A League and W League games regularly. It also offers them an opportunity to watch their team on Fox Sports or WIN TV representing the region and competing on the national, and hopefully one day, the international stage."

For further information, or to organise interviews please contact Susan Gatt, Administration Manager, Wollongong Wolves Football Club on (02) 4272 2624