



# BRISBANE ROAR

FAN REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

## Meeting minutes from Wednesday 18/02/2026 - 6.00pm

### Attendees

#### Fan Representative Group (FRG)

Chris Kelly (CK – **APL FRG Representative**), Christie Skillington (CS), Connor Ross (CR)  
Dan Smareglia (DS - **Secretary**), John Murray (JM) Majella Card (MC), Simon Boegheim (SB),  
Stuart Warren (SW – **Chair**)

#### Brisbane Roar

Kaz Patafta (KP - **Chairman and CEO**), Zac Anderson (ZA – **Chief Operations Officer**)  
Joseph Esposito, (JE – **Head of PR & Communications**) Justin Vidic (JV - **ALM forward**)

### Apologies

Jeremy Scott (JS), Neil Ballment (NB) Carissa Matheson (CM)

### 1.0 Management update

Both the ALM and ALW teams are still in the hunt for finals football. It has been a difficult period recently, in terms of injuries and results, but the belief is still there - in the teams and in the management. JV said that the recent setbacks have not affected the ALM team and they will continue to work hard as they have done all season. ALM is looking at the return of Jay O'Shea and Henry Hore in the coming weeks. Milorad Stajic has made incredible progress and is looking to be back in training in the next few weeks.

KP presented key data on tactical findings in the following areas -

- Pressing intensity
- Counter attack identity
- First goal importance
- Goal creation improvements
- Home form paradox
- Finishing
- Game management

Coaching staff were presented with the data insights this week to work on these key areas.

SB asked a question about the club's plan to secure the services of the younger players from scholarship contracts into longer term professional contracts.

ZA said the club is always looking to lock in the younger talent for the longer term which adds to better depth for the squads. The APL is looking at a \$3m hard salary cap next season which means that all clubs will be looking at their spending and the clubs that will be successful will be the ones that generate their own talent and have strong depth in their academies.

Management also spoke about the need for younger players to have more game time before they reach the professional level.

SB asked a question about moving the coaching technical areas further away from the officials to mitigate issues that coaching staff have experienced with referees.

ZA said that the club loves Michael's passion and the intensity that he has brought to the club since joining. However, with any high performer there may be times when the line is crossed and it is management's role to address this. This resulted in a statement from Michael acknowledging the situation and apologising. The club also has met with the Head of Refereeing to work through how things could be improved. In terms of where the technical area is located this is mandated by Football Australia.

## **2.0 ALW injuries**

FRG - Injuries happen for countless reasons, discussions at the end of the 2024/25 season noted the relatively high injury toll in the women's team in that season. So far this season we have Isabela Hoyos Yanez out for an extended period following leg surgery, the significant injuries to Tameka Yallop and Sharn Freier. There have also been injuries to Grace Kuilamu and Zara Krueger. Any comment from the club on player management / injuries would be appreciated, particularly as the women's team head into a busy second half of the season.

BR - It has been extremely disappointing for the club to suffer the amount of ACL injuries we have so far this season. From the club's standpoint we are doing everything we can to manage the players day to day through club doctors, physios and strength and conditioning, however it is a problem across Women's football globally, not necessarily just the A-League Women or Brisbane Roar.

In a recent Courier Mail article, Dr Andrea Mosler, of La Trobe Sport and Exercise Medicine Research Centre, who is leading the injury surveillance in the A-Leagues, said: "It is not completely out of pattern from previous seasons or from other leagues around the world." "More players means more ACL injuries, but if you look at it in comparison to the exposure the incident is staying pretty stable, in fact it is lower than what they report in Europe," Mosler said.

Dr Mosler said there was an incidence of 0.12 per 1000 hours for ACL injuries in the A-League's Women in the 2024/25 season - including a player injured while on national duty. It is on par with the rates across Europe at 0.1 per thousand hours. Across UEFA the prevalence of ACL injuries is at 5 per cent, in the ALW it was just 2 per cent. "We have this impression that it is out of control and that there's some sort of hysteria associated with the high ACL injury rates. But in fact, this is just a problem for women playing football all over the world," Mosler said.

Researchers are exploring every avenue to determine why women are more susceptible, including the impact of menstrual cycle, hormone levels, age, and repeat injuries.

### **3.0 Relocation of ALM fixture on February 28**

FRG - It was pleasing to see a vast improvement in the condition of the Suncorp Stadium playing surface following representations made by the FRG to the new General Manager after the Melbourne Victory fixture. Given the lucrative nature of the summer concerts, the FRG believe that full restoration of the playing surface is a minimum requirement for A-League games.

The club has now been advised that throughout February, Suncorp Stadium is hosting a number of major events where patrons and performers require access to the field. There is also a rugby match scheduled on the eve of the ALM fixture.

As a result, this fixture has now been moved to Kayo Stadium despite being locked in at the beginning of the season for Suncorp Stadium. Have we now reached a situation where we cannot be certain that fixtures scheduled at Suncorp Stadium will actually be played there?

BR - The club shares exact disappointments of fans regarding the moving of the fixture. As we now enter a new venue hire agreement with Suncorp Stadium, we are working positively with the venue's management to have elected 'football only' months at Suncorp around the concert periods to allow for a select period to be dedicated to football.

When we enter the Autumn months we will continue to share the venue with the Broncos, Dolphins and Reds. This will mean that during blackout months venues such as Kayo will need to be activated for us to host home matches.

CK asked when negotiating the venue hire agreement is the Roar able to include conditions in the agreement that protect us in terms of pitch quality.

KP agreed and has written comprehensive notes around the agreement but ultimately it comes down to how much leverage the club has in the negotiations.

CS asked if there are any plans to take matches to regional Queensland (i.e. Mackay, Townsville, Toowoomba or Gold Coast) given the increased unavailability of Suncorp Stadium.

ZA said that after the meeting with Suncorp Stadium, Roar management looked at all the options across Queensland where we could potentially play when Suncorp Stadium is not available next season. Those options are currently being reviewed. The objective is to create certainty for fans in the fixture list.

Mackay and Townsville are unlikely for next season; Gold Coast is a possibility and unfortunately Sunshine Coast Stadium is not available due to renovations for the Olympics. It may end up looking like as many games as possible at Suncorp, some games at Kayo and a game potentially at the Gold Coast during the holiday period. The priority will be to get certainty regarding Suncorp fixtures and then look other options and find the best solution for the fans. ALW games will be played at Spencer Park next season.

### **4.0 Perry Park update**

FRG - The Queensland government has indicated that an upgrade to Perry Park is still on the table for the 2032 Olympics - although specific details are still unclear.

The unavailability of Suncorp Stadium during most of Summer due to concerts reinforces the need for the state government to fast track the upgrade of Perry Park so that the Brisbane Roar

have certainty regarding a home ground. Does the club have an update or any further information about this?

BR - With Football Queensland running the process regarding the potential upgrade of Perry Park, we have received no significant information at which we can report upon.

## **5.0 Roar Supporters Federation update**

Roar Supporters Federation in conjunction with Fair Funding for Football has commenced a campaign to lobby the state government by sending 5,000 postcards to the Minister for Sport, Racing and Olympic Games, asking for urgent action on upgrading Perry Park. The RSF is also planning a Fan Forum for Thursday 26th February at the Last Man Standing Brewery in Castlemaine Street opposite Suncorp Stadium.

At this stage there will be managers from the ALM, ALW and Roar B team as well as some players. We encourage all fans to come along. Further information will be posted on social media.

## **6.0 2026/27 fixture scheduling**

FRG - It has been a successful summer of football for the A-Leagues in general with many entertaining games scheduled during the holiday period for fans to enjoy.

It's necessary for the APL to be proactive in approaching scheduling for the next season, including communications with fans. So now would be a good time to engage with the APL regarding what the potential fixture list looks like for the Roar next season.

The following scheduling issues arose during this season and need to be carefully considered when planning for next season.

- Before the New Year's Eve game, our ALW team had only played 5 matches, compared to Melbourne Victory who had played 10 during the same timeframe.
- The women's season was further disrupted by the problems at Leichardt Oval because the playing surface was in an unsatisfactory condition.
- The Roar ALM had to play 4 games over a 10-day period during the holiday period which the Head Coach Michael Valkanis deemed as unacceptable.
- Games should not be scheduled at 2 pm during the heat of Brisbane. Due to our geography, Brisbane Roar need to have consideration on this issue.
- Mid-week fixtures – are they necessary?
- We acknowledge that this season's fixtures were greatly affected by the Western United withdrawal but now is an opportune time to state our case for next season.

BR - The football club has been engaging with the APL since December regarding these matters. It must be made clear that the fixturing of the season does not commence until the finalisation of the Domestic Match Calendar which is developed in conjunction with Football Australia and is out of Brisbane Roar's control.

It should also be known that many of the fixturing issues we saw this year wasn't due to the club failing to get on top of the schedule, work was done for several months and prior to the standing

down of Western United, and we had landed on a very successful fixturing of the season, which of course played an immense role on the fixtures and the challenges that they brought to both the Men's and Women's team.

Regarding the 2pm fixture, this time has been set due to the Women's Asian Cup Final that night. Whilst we completely agree with the point raised, it was one made outside of our control and one we wouldn't rule out ultimately having to be pushed back due to weather.

CK to raise the issue of ALM stadium availability at the national FRG meeting on March 3.

## **7.0 Change of Kit supplier**

FRG - Some fans have been curious to know what has driven the change of kit supplier to Kelme. General fan feedback is that kits in recent years have been of good quality and the FRG would like to see the same level of quality and creativity of design with the new supplier.

We generally acknowledge an uplift in variety and quality of wider supporter merchandise this year. Nice to see more merchandise available than in previous seasons.

Is there any prospect of fans being able to personally custom design their kits via the new supplier rather than having to go through a third party such as Soccer World? BR to advise.

We understand there was a recent survey asking fans about club colours and believe the overall preference was black and orange. Is this correct and was there any other feedback?

BR - Yes, the result of the club colours voting by fans returned an overwhelming support for the colours to revert back to black and orange.

## **8.0 Operational Foundations**

FRG - As we discussed at our last FRG meeting and last meeting with the Club, it's important that the Club get operational foundations right. Since that meeting there has been an uplift in the club's operations, but it's been disappointing to see the following:

**Tickets** - Following the delays in issuance discussed at the last meeting with the Club, a member finally received their family's season tickets on November 20th.

Unfortunately, 2 of the 3 tickets have printing errors. In both cases, the seating allocations for Kayo are shown in the Suncorp section and vice versa. Thankfully the tickets worked to scan into Kayo on Saturday, but it's disappointing that after the delay, tickets don't accurately show seating allocations.

**Communications** - As others may have already noted, the match day guide issued by the Club for the Kayo game contained information for Suncorp Stadium, not Kayo. For an unfamiliar venue, we need timely and accurate information from the Club.

BR - The club acknowledges the error that was made here between us and Ticketek's automated email which has been rectified going forward. The club is working to take back more control of systems and processes.

## **9.0 Kayo Stadium Food**

There was a lot of discussion and frustration among fans on Saturday 3/1/26 when many of the food stands at Kayo ran out of food and / or closed before half time in the women's game. Food options are a hot topic at any ground, but with fans spending 5+ hours at a ground for a double header, it is important that sufficient food options are available for the full duration of the programme.

BR - This issue was also flagged internally and upgraded for the last fixture at KAYO with more offerings made available sufficient to the space available inside the venue.

## **10.0 Marketing and Promotions**

FRG wish to congratulate the club on the excellent social media engagement. Facebook and Instagram content has been streets ahead of previous seasons particularly in regard to volume and quality. It's pleasing to see entertaining videos that engage with our sponsors such as Value Dental.

## **11.0 The Den participation**

Welcome to Connor Ross – current Capo of the Den.

The Brisbane Roar Fan Representative Group is pleased to have The Den represented. The RSF and The Roar Corps each have two standing positions within the FRG, and this is also open to The Den. Active support enhances the match day experience and distinguishes football from the other codes making it highly valuable. We acknowledge the key contributions made by both The Den and Roar Corps supporter groups.

There was discussion about the pre-game venue and the need to have the best possible location for ALM games.

## **12.0 Club identity**

FRG - At a previous FRG meeting Roar management said it is looking to bring in an independent party to assist in the process of understanding Brisbane Roar's identity and what the club stands for, so that the club can have a clear position on issues such as Pride and Indigenous rounds, rather than leaving it up to individuals to decide.

BR – This is something that the club is still looking at but haven't appointed anyone as yet. Conversations are taking place with different parties, and it is still on the agenda. The APL supports the Pride round initiative made evident through the fourth running of their Pride celebration which is happening currently.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.