

**Statement from the Wyong Rugby League Club relating to the incident at
Woy Woy Oval on Sunday June 9th 2024**

The Wyong Roos organisation firmly refutes any allegation of racism or bias toward any group within our community. Since its establishment in 1910, the team has actively embraced diversity within our community. This fact is best evidenced by examining the composition of our sides throughout the years, who have always featured players from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. We are also proud supporters of all initiatives that recognise the important contribution made by our First Nations people in our great game.

In specifically addressing the details of the incident on June 9th, we provide our perspective of what transpired on the day:

- On June 9th 2024 a group of Wyong Roos supporters were involved in an incident at Woy Woy Oval. Those supporters were the father, mother, brother and sister of a first grade Wyong player who was playing in the match against Woy Woy Roosters.
- At the conclusion of the match the Wyong supporters were victims of an unprovoked, violent attack by several Woy Woy players and supporters after being wrongly accused of racial abuse by Andrew Fifita during the game. Our Club is disappointed that Andrew Fifita, the captain/coach of Woy Woy took no action to try to break up this attack.
- Contrary to the allegations by Fifita, as reported in the media, the NSWRL Code of Conduct Review Panel found last week that there was no evidence of racial abuse by the Wyong supporters during the game.
- To emphasise the falsity of racial abuse is the fact that several of the family members seated in the Wyong section are themselves indigenous. To suggest that these valued members of our Wyong Roos community would condone such activity in their presence, is both absurd and disrespectful.
- The Wyong supporters suffered significant physical and emotional trauma resulting from the attack, with one supporter requiring hospital attention.
- The father of the Wyong player has acknowledged that private messages sent to Andrew Fifita later in the evening on the day of the attack included unacceptable racist comments. He has expressed deep remorse for his conduct.
- Wyong Rugby League Club condemns any form of racism.
- Wyong Rugby League Club further condemns any form of violence towards players, team officials and spectators. All participants at our games should be able to attend without fear of being violently attacked.
- NSWRL has imposed a 20-year ban on the father of the Wyong player for the private messages he sent to Andrew Fifita. Wyong Rugby League Club calls on NSWRL to take an equally tough stance towards the persons involved in the unprovoked attack on the Wyong spectators.



It is the firm view of the Wyong Leagues Group Board of Directors that violence is never acceptable any time or anywhere. For an unprovoked and vicious attack on a family at a sporting event in broad daylight further underscores just how disturbing and unacceptable this incident was.

CEO Ben Coghlan added “I have met with the family who were the victims of this brutal attack, and I was genuinely shocked by the extent and severity of the injuries that they sustained. Whilst the physical scars in time may heal, the emotional distress they have endured will remain quite possibly forever. We are completely outraged by this vile act and those who perpetrated it”.