

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/south-east/afl-victoria-to-meet-with-debthit-frankston-dolphins-football-club-on-thursday-to-discuss-future/news-story/a9c970a0d14fb9e0639d02d0501732a9>

AFL Victoria to meet with debt-hit Frankston Dolphins Football Club on Thursday to discuss future

Christian Tatman, Frankston Standard Leader
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AFL Victoria has issued a statement today prevaricating over the future of Frankston Dolphins Football Club.

A statement issued by AFL Victoria spokesman Anthony Stanguts said: “AFL Victoria has not notified the Frankston Football Club of any decision regarding their license.

“The media reports are as a result of a meeting between AFL Victoria and the administrators Monday and the administrator subsequently releasing a statement to the media and not the club itself.

“AFL Victoria has not provided any such advice to the club regarding their license and will meet with them on Thursday.

“AFL Victoria will not provide any comment until further discussions with Frankston.”

The statement is similar to comments posted on Facebook today by Frankston Council candidate John Billing, who wrote the Dolphins were “not out yet”.

Mr Billing said senior AFL Victoria officials told him they were working with council to “explore all available options to see that football is vibrant within Frankston and the broader region”.

AFL Victoria has already told administrator Paul Burness, from Frankston firm Worrells Solvency and Forensic Accountants, that it would terminate the Dolphins’ licence to play in the state league imminently.

Mr Burness told the *Leader* today that AFL Victoria had been unambiguous about its decision to boot the debt-hit Dolphins out of the league.

“They have told me they are going to terminate the licence,” Mr Burness said.

Multiple sources told the *Leader* that AFL Victoria’s move on the Dolphins was “non-negotiable”.

The club went into voluntary administration four weeks ago with debts of about \$1.5 million.

Supporters have reacted angrily after *Leader* yesterday broke the news of the club's demise.

ABC sports commentator and ex-Frankston player Paul Kennedy slammed what he described as a "lazy, shallow, heartless decision".

"And the responsibility for this axing lies not only with the branch-level AFL Victoria. It is with the AFL's boss and his advisers."

AFL Victoria's decision to effectively boot the Dolphins out of the competition follows a multi-million dollar redevelopment of the Kars St social club.

Leader reported in April last year that cost of the \$3.4 million Frankston Dolphins Football Club redevelopment project has blown out by up to \$300,000.

AFL Victoria contributed \$250,000 to the project along with money from other levels of government.