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Bryan Mace (centre) and key supporters James Dooley, Chris Crewther, Paul Edbrooke and John Davis are fighting to save the Frankston Dolphins Football Club.

[South East](#)

Supporters fight to resurrect Frankston Dolphins Football Club for 2018 season

Christian Tatman and Paul Amy, Frankston Standard Leader
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FRANTIC efforts are underway to resurrect the Frankston Dolphins Football Club after it was dramatically booted out of the VFL.

As reported at frankstonleader.com.au, AFL Victoria last Friday confirmed the Dolphins wouldn't be given a licence to compete in the state league for 2017.

Supporters are now focused on trying to sort through the club's dire finances to enable it to regroup and re-enter the competition in 2018.

Dunkley federal Liberal MP Chris Crewther, who lobbied senior AFL officials for the club to continue, called on the community to rally behind the Dollies, who joined the VFA in 1966.

Mr Crewther said it was essential better governance structures were set up at the club to meet the conditions of the VFL licence.

Frankston state Labor MP Paul Edbrooke, who has also been involved in efforts to save the club, said he was gutted by AFL Victoria's decision.

"With eyes to the future we have to establish a steering committee so we can establish good governance structures so we get a VFL license for 2018," he said.

The club has about \$1.5 million debts with creditors due to meet administrator Paul Burness, from Frankston firm Worrells Solvency and Forensic Accountants on Monday (today).

Mr Crewther said he hoped the creditors would agree to keep the club afloat so it could prove its long-term financial viability and regain a VFL licence.

Coach Patrick Hill said he and his players were "devastated" by the turn of his events.

"It's heartbreaking," he said.

Legendary Frankston administrator Bryan Mace said he was staggered the AFL would not intervene.

"It's a kick in the guts for our community," Mace, who coached the Dollies to the 1978 Division 2 premiership, said.

AFL Victoria CEO Steven Reaper said the Dolphins' financial troubles were "too hard to ignore".

"Frankston has had a rich history of providing a pathway and opportunities for footballers in the region, but without the necessary off-field structures in place, AFL Victoria was not confident financial projections provided could be met," Reaper said.

"We have a strong willingness to ensure that there is a VFL presence in the region into the future, but it must be viable and sustainable both on and off the field long-term.

"We have had preliminary meetings with key regional stakeholders on what this can look like and are also engaging the City of Frankston and the AFL South East Commission about what the future can hold for both the facility and football in the region.

"The region has been, and will continue to be, very important to us from a pathway and development perspective and we are hopeful that a solution that is both sustainable and viable can be considered going forward for a VFL presence potentially from 2018."