

RL: Holmes a Court to address Souths fans

By Adrian Proszenko

SYDNEY, Feb 10 AAP - Peter Holmes a Court and Russell Crowe are aiming to secure 95 per cent of the vote when their proposal to own South Sydney goes to the members next month.

Holmes a Court today began campaigning for the 75 per cent of votes required from South Sydney members to privatise the Rabbitohs after their bid was ratified by the club's board last night.

The Rabbitohs board was split 6-3 in favour of passing the \$3 million majority shareholding bid on to its 4,505 members, who will have the ultimate say at an extraordinary general meeting on March 19.

Holmes a Court today assured Rabbitohs fans there was "nothing scary in the detail" and pledged to spend the next month explaining his proposal to members, beginning with a visit to the club's fan day on Sunday.

"We believed we had the numbers but it was the indication of the challenge we have ahead of us," Holmes a Court said of last night's board meeting.

"Six to three is 67 per cent, we need 75, but we want 95 per cent.

"We want to go through this vote so that 95 per cent of the members say 'I'm on side, I want to be part of this club, I want to be part of getting this club to where it needs to be a winning club again.

"I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't believe it was about winning premierships, making it a consistently winning team based in Sydney."

The multi-millionaire businessman, who would become executive chairman under the plan, said the main message he wanted to convey to members was that they would have the final say on key issues relating to the club's future.

"Currently members do not have control over the club being relocated, for example to Gosford," Holmes a Court said.

"Under our proposal, they would get those rights, they would get the rights to forever control colours, name, logo and location."

Souths legend George Piggins has opposed the proposal and is now likely to begin lobbying to have it rejected by members.

Holmes a Court, who accepted an invitation from Piggins' wife Noelene to a radio debate, said he had made three changes to the proposal in the last week based on fan feedback, which will give members the final say on the distribution of profits and whether the company is listed on the stock exchange.

Rabbitohs chairman Nick Pappas said Crowe and Holmes a Court had the club's best interest at heart.

"I'd like to think that members are looking for a model that's going to bring at least sustainability to the club, financial sustainability," he told ABC radio today.

"It's also going to enshrine those very core values."