

2.3 Review of the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy and Board Venue Policy

TO Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM Rachael Pull, Senior Strategic Planner
DATE 14/08/2020

1 Purpose of report

This report seeks Council approval to review the Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy and Board Venue Policy (the policies).

2 Summary

Local authorities are required under the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020 (the Acts) to have Class 4 gambling venue and board venue policies in place and review them every 3 years. These policies articulate Council's position on the location and numbers of class 4 gaming machines and TAB venues. The policies are now due for review which needs to commence by December 2020.

In 2019, the Thames Coromandel district spent \$10.6 million on gaming machines. This would have created over \$4 million in community grants, although not all grants are allocated locally.

Thames Coromandel district has the second highest spend on gaming machines in the country and has a machine to adult ratio over twice the national average. Since the current policy was adopted in 2015, venues and machine numbers have fallen as money spent on gaming machines has continued to rise.

Council currently has a 'sinking-lid' type gambling policy which means that no new venues or machines can be established in the District. However, the policy does allow for relocations and mergers of gaming venues as well as new TAB venues.

In developing the policies, Council must have regard to the social impact of gambling with the district. In order to understand the social impact, staff have updated the 2014 Social Report (**Attachment B**) which provides the updated statistical information for the district relating to the impact of gambling and the policies.

The report considers four options for reviewing the policies which are:

1. Status Quo 'sinking lid' - consider the current policies effective.
2. Gold standard 'sinking lid' – no new venues, machines, mergers or relocations.
3. 'Cap' – maximum number of venues and machines ('sinking lid' by default).
4. Consistent 'sinking lid' - Apply a consistent sinking lid approach to class 4 and TAB venues.

For more details on each of the options please refer to the Comprehensive Report included as **Attachment A**.

If the Council believes that the policies are effective and do not require changes it can resolve the review of the policies is complete (option 1). If the Council believes that changes are required (options 2-4), then a public consultation process using the special consultation process under section 88 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) should occur.

3 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Thames Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Review of Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy and Board Venue Policy' report and updated 'Thames Coromandel District Social Impacts Report 2020'.
2. Approves option 4 (Consistent 'sinking lid') to be notified for public feedback.
3. Endorses the Communication Plan as the basis of the public consultation process.
4. Approves that the submission period opens 9:00am on Friday 18 September 2020 and closes 5:00pm on Monday 19 October 2020.

References-Tabled/Agenda attachments

1. Attachment A – Comprehensive Report
2. Attachment B - Updated Social Impacts Report
3. Attachment C – Statement of Proposal
4. Attachment D – Communication Plan