



Report

Subject: **Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy review**

To: Marton Community Committee

From: George Forster

Date: 3 October 2019

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TABLED DOCUMENT

Tabled at Marton Community Committee
on 9 October 2019

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the draft Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy that Council has adopted for public consultation. This report provides feedback from the pre-consultation process on the review of the Policy and what is being proposed.
- 1.2 A review of the TAB Venue Policy was conducted alongside the Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy and Council determined that they would adopt the TAB Venue Policy without amendment. This means Council will continue to not permit and standalone TAB venues to established in the Rangitikei District.
- 1.3 As per legislation, Council is required to carry out a review of its gambling policies.

2 Context

- 2.1 The Rangitikei District currently has 58 electronic gaming machines (pokies) operating out of 5 different venues scattered across Bulls, Marton, Hunterville and Taihape. The policies were last reviewed in 2016. The review saw the Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy continue to have a cap which is set at 83. The TAB Venue Policy continued to not allow any standalone venues in the District.

The key findings from the social impact assessment are as follows:

- Total grants to the district for the period 01/01/18 until 30/06/19 was \$781,518.88
- Rangitikei lost \$61.27 per head for the 2019 March quarter. This is the 43rd highest loss out of the 67 territorial authorities. At the time of the last review for the March quarter loss per head was \$60.98.
- Total number of pokies have decreased from 85 in 2013 down to 58 as of 30 June 2019
- The total number of venues has decreased from 8 in 2013 down to 5 as of 30 June 2019
- Rangitikei has no Standalone TAB venues
- Gambling positively contributes to our local economy, and for the majority of people who do not have a gambling problem can be a form of entertainment.
- Marton and Hunterville have a deprivation level of 9, Taihape 8 and Bulls 7.

2.2 As a part of this review officers have carried out pre-engagement with the following groups:

- New Zealand Racing Board;
- Corporate societies who have provided grants to the district in the last 18 months
- Existing Class 4 venues;
- Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand (PGFNZ);
- Nga Tai O Te Awa (NTOTA);
- Healthy Families;
- Whanganui District Health Board;
- True Legal;
- Council regulatory officers; and
- Youth Council

2.3 There were two views on the direction Council should take with the review of the Gambling Venues Policy (Class 4). One was to have a more restrictive policy and the other was to keep it the same or similar to the current policy.

3 Conclusions

3.1 Council resolved to consult on either continuing with having a cap on machines or to switch to a sinking lid. Each option has both advantages and disadvantages which is why Council seeks feedback on both options.

3.2 Council's current Gambling venue (Class 4) policy is generally permissive in terms of enabling new venues to be established and in providing for gaming machines to be replaced up to the specified limit.

3.3 Availability of, and access to, gaming machines in Class 4 venues is one of the main contributing factors to the incidence of problem gambling.

4 Recommendation

4.1 That the report "Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy review" report to the Marton Community Committee on 9 October 2019 be received.

George Forster
Policy Advisor