

MINUTES

POLICY/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 13 March 2025

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Gill Duncan
Cr Greg Maughan
Cr Jeff Wong
Cr Paul Sharland
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa
Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Simon Loudon
HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

Cr Coral Raukawa
Mrs Carol Gordon, Chief Executive
Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy
Mr Johan Cullis, Group Manager - Regulatory and Emergency Management
Ms Janna Harris, Corporate Planner
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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1 Welcome / Prayer

The Chair opened the meeting at 1.00pm.

2 Apologies

No apologies received.

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Reports for Information

6.1 Hearing of Submissions on the Draft Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy and Draft TAB Venue Policy

Commentary is included below.

Resolved minute number 25/PPL/011

That the report 'Hearing of Submissions on the Draft Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy and Draft TAB Venue Policy' be received.

Cr D Wilson/HWTM A Watson. Carried

Hearing of Submissions on the Draft Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy and Draft TAB Venue Policy

Submitter name	Organisation	Summary of topic and context	Summary of key questions posted by Elected Members and responses
Madeline Cullen	Problem Gambling Foundation	<p>Tabled presentation provided.</p> <p>Ms Cullen highlighted gambling related harm and importance of prevention.</p> <p>Ms Cullen advocated for a sinking lid policy to mitigate the harms of gambling.</p>	<p>Cr Loudon: Do the loss figures include winnings returned to player of the pokie machine?</p> <p>Answer: Gross machine profit is once the winnings is removed. The 91 cents back to the player is the lifetime of the machine.</p>
Justin Adams	N/A		<p>HWTM: Was AI used to write this submission?</p> <p>Answer: It was written by Mr Adams, but AI was used to clarify.</p> <p>HWTM: What is the result you're looking for?</p> <p>Answer: The biggest issue is continual restriction. Mr Adams supported the current policy of a cap. However, advocates for population growth to be considered.</p> <p>HWTM: You support a cap but would like council to consider increasing machine numbers based on population growth?</p> <p>Answer: Yes</p> <p>Cr Loudon: When you've noted social issues, are these local government or central government issues?</p>

			Answer: There is a responsibility with local government to support and lead.
Jarrold True	Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand	<p>Tabled presentation provided.</p> <p>Mr True advocated for relocation in the policy as it is a harm minimisation tool. This also supports the movement of hospitality venues and relocation for health and safety.</p>	<p>HWTM: What is the definition of a sensitive area as referred to in your written submission?</p> <p>Answer: Mr True advocated that Council consider a policy which allows council to consider on a case-by-case basis. This allows for a more desirable site, factors that can be considered include residential areas, size of the venue and close by to public spaces.</p> <p>Cr Wilson: Te Rapa Tavern was provided as an example, how many gaming machines were on the old site versus the new site?</p> <p>Answer: It had 18 on the old site and was able to retain and relocate 18 to the new site. There was no increase in number of gaming machines.</p>
Emma Williams	Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand	<p>Tabled presentation provided.</p> <p>Noted section 7.2 of the policy and the wording on the maximum number of gaming machines.</p> <p>Ms Williams highlighted that the grant funding is coming from low deprivation areas and yet the grants go back to groups that may not be experiencing the impacts of living in the low deprivation areas.</p> <p>Ms Williams noted that there is not a lot of screening for gambling harm compared to alcohol or smoking.</p>	<p>Cr Loudon: Pokies tend to sit in pubs, or could they sit somewhere else?</p> <p>Answer: Ms Williams asked is this should be determined by central government or is this something council has control over.</p> <p>Cr Loudon: This is an R18 environment that council can have some input in, and there is harm already on these sites.</p> <p>Answer: The CBD in the towns is small, with a medium to high deprivation and is challenging to answer. There are saturations in some communities with harmful commodities.</p>

		Ms Williams advocated councillors to speak with surrounding councillors with a sinking lid and how this operates.	
Ben Hodges (Jo Salisbury)	New Zealand Community Trust	<p>Tabled presentation provided.</p> <p>Supported the policy and spoke about the reason not to have a sinking lid.</p> <p>Mr Hodges spoke that the sinking lid may decrease expenditure on pokies but does not decrease gambling harm.</p> <p>Mr Hodges spoke of the deprivation index and that this is likely not the case in the Rangitikei District due to the closeness of town to parks and suburban areas.</p>	<p>HWTM: What is the definition of a problem gambler?</p> <p>Answer: There are different levels of harm identified, mild gambling harm is defined as having little to no negative impacts. This can be found on the DIA website. Serious problem gamblers are those who experience serious effects on their life.</p>

The meeting closed at 2.00pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Policy/Planning Committee held on 10 April 2025.

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Chairperson