



Report

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

To: Taihape Community Board **TABLED DOCUMENT**

From: George Forster **Tabled at Taihape Community Board**

Date: 3 October 2019 **on 9 October 2019**

File Ref: 3-PY-1-5

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 Taihape Community Board on 9 October 2019 be received.

George Forster
Policy Advisor

Taihape Community Board Agenda Item Submission Form

Meeting date: 9/10/2019

Submitted by: Cr Angus Gordon

Agenda item: Late item

Description of issue to be tabled.

The fence-line adjacent to the intersection of Weka and Kokako streets had been signalled for replacement as part of the TCB PAF related work plan as part of the 'tidy-up' of the Weka street extension area. The Old fence line was situated down the bank below the oak trees and had a gateway that gave foot access to the old brewery spring site as well as a poorly functioning stock access route to the O'Taihape stream gully, this left the area both prone to fly-tipping and potentially dangerous to members of the public using the grass verge for parking and council staff mowing the grass verge. The fence has been shifted to the top of the bank and the gateway repositioned to the eastern end of the rails at the entrance adjacent to the Kokako and Weka streets intersection. The site was prepared as part of the "spoil removal" project in the Weka street extension area.

A local fence contractor was employed to recycle the majority of the materials on the existing fence and reconstruct this with additional new material along the new fence-line, swing the existing gate in the new gateway site and construct a new set of rails below the gateway to the cliff edge. This job was a little problematic as all the holes had to be manually dug due to the adjacency of underground services (electricity transformer feed cables and telecom fibre optic cable). A "historic" buried fence was also located under the new fence making each hole an adventure in its own right. This job was undertaken between 26th September and 3rd October depending on weather.

Resolution sought

The authorization for payment from the TCB PAF fund of 2 invoices. Hautapu Rural supplies provided the new materials to a value of \$850.65 incl. GST.

The labour component supplied by Bill Nelson on an hourly basis to a total value of \$1165-76.

Outcome: Payment of invoices.

Taihape Community Board Agenda Item Submission Form

Meeting date: 9/10/2019

Submitted by: Cr Angus Gordon

Agenda item: Late item

Description of issue to be tabled.

The “dirt heap” adjacent to the Weka street extension car park and turn around area was levelled and shifted at short notice by a local contractor (K Deighton contracting) in preparation for the 125 celebration tree planting project, and as part of the general upgrade of that area that had previously been signalled by the Taihape community board. Some of the spoil/ clean-fill was used to rebuild the track below the gateway at the intersection of Kokako street, and Weka street, fill in the hole behind the Weka street transformer in preparation for the re-fencing of the site , with the rest of the soil and degraded bark/chip was deposited along the edge of the site. A considerable amount of fly tipped material was removed from the site by RDC staff and PD workers prior to the soil being shifted. Kowhai trees were planted over the site on Sunday 15th September in holes that were pre dug by a council contractor.

Attached is the invoice for authorization and PAF payment

Resolution sought

Authorization for the payment of the invoice (875) from K Deighton contracting for a total of \$1000.50 incl. GST from the TCB PAF fund.

Outcome

Invoice payment.