

7 December 2016

The Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets
Legislative Council
Parliament House
HOBART 7000

Email: fmg@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Response to Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Joint Select Committee on the *Future Gaming Markets*.

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT / the Association) is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the representative body for Local Government in Tasmania.

The objectives of LGAT are:

- To promote the efficient administration and operation of Local Government in the State of Tasmania;
- To watch over and protect the interests, rights and privileges of municipal Councils in the State of Tasmania;
- To foster and promote relationships between Local Government in the State of Tasmania with both the Government of Tasmania and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia;
- To represent the interests of the members of the Association generally, and such particular matters as may be referred to the Association by its members; and
- To provide such support services to the members of the Association as the Association may by resolution in meeting determine.

LGAT is aware of, and fully supports, those councils that have made their own submissions to the consultation process. Where a council has made a direct submission to this process, any omission of these specific council comments in the LGAT submission should not be viewed as lack of support by the Association for that specific issue.

Gaming and electronic gaming machines has been a matter of interest to many of Tasmania's councils, for example, six councils (Brighton, Southern Midlands, Meander Valley, Kingborough, Hobart and Glenorchy) have joined the community coalition campaigning for EGM reform.

The Gaming Act and electronic gaming machines were an item of a topical discussion at the February 2016 Association General Meeting, with the following motion supported at the July 2016 General Meeting.

That LGAT, on behalf of its member councils, seek that:

1. The terms of reference for the State Governments Joint Select Committee Review into gaming in Tasmania be expanded to include whether or not electronic gaming machines (EGMs) should be allowed outside casinos at all and that as part of the Select Committee Review process, the Tasmanian community be polled to determine its view on this critical question.
2. The *Gaming Control Act 1993* should be reviewed, particularly to remove its power to over-ride other acts.
3. A copy of this position will be sent to the Government, Opposition and Greens parties and to all Members of the Legislative Council.

LGAT welcomed the announcement of the *Gaming Control Amendment (Community Interest) Act 2016*, which introduces the requirement for a community interest test when a new Licensed Premises Gaming Licence is applied for. Community interest and involvement in the decision making is central to the concerns of our sector.

To that end, LGAT supports a review of the *Gaming Control Act 1993* (the Act) to remove its powers to override other legislation, such as the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act. A core function of local government is the regulation of land use within their municipality, and a key part of this being the assessment of development proposals positive and negative impacts on the local community. By removing the power of the Act to override other acts, councils could, via their planning schemes, have some influence on the location of gaming venues in the same way that they already determine the appropriate location for other land uses, such as commercial business, industrial areas or different types of residential uses.

The Association believes this, combined with the soon to be established community interest test, will significantly improve the opportunity for local community input and consideration of community interest in the establishment of new gaming venues in their area.

If you have any queries or would like further information, please contact Penny Finlay at penny.finlay@lgat.tas.gov.au or by telephone on 62335965.

Yours sincerely



Dr Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER