



**Submission to Hamilton City Council
on your proposed
Gambling Venues Policy**

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Current situation

- Low problem gambling rates
- Good harm minimisation initiatives in place
- Your community benefits from pokie grants
- Government requirement to consider relocations



Benefits to players:

Distance and location

have an influence on gambling behaviour

- Auckland University of Technology, Gambling & Addictions Research Centre, 2012
- Ministry of Health, 2013 Gambling Resource for Local Government



Benefits to council:

- More effective policy tool.
- Addresses the issue of gambling venues in high deprivation communities.
- Able to respond to changing population.
- Easier re-zoning.



Flaws of the current system:

- Building owners hold all power, but have no obligations under the Gambling Act.
- No incentive for building owners to maintain the upkeep of their premises = unappealing/unattractive locations.
- Entrenches gambling operators.





Principles:

- Current policy “recognises the CBD of Hamilton City as the preferred locality for Class 4 gambling **within** the city”.
- We support a policy change that allows venues to move **to** and **within** gambling permitted areas.
- Examples of relocation requests.

Hamilton City Council TAB Board Venue Policy



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Summary – TAB Policy

- **The New Zealand Racing Board invites council to retain the current TAB Policy (a cap of four TAB Board Venues).**
- **There is no need to change the current policy.**
- **A change would be counter-productive on harm minimisation grounds.**

Concern re Gaming Funds Being Used for Racing

- **Proposed change is due to the recent 5 Crossroads Sports Bar & Café application.**
- **Section 33 of the Gambling Act now prevents the NZRB using the gaming funds if it takes over an existing gaming venue.**
- **Prior concern has been addressed.**

Racing in the Waikato

- **Significant economic contribution:**
 - **\$370 million contribution to the Waikato GDP.**
 - **7,924 full time, part time, or volunteers based in the Waikato.**
- **Significant entertainment contribution:**
 - **93 race meetings held in the Waikato each year attended by over 111,000 people.**

Proposed Prohibition on New TAB Board Venues

- **TAB venues in the Hamilton City District:**

Name	Address	Type of Outlet
Frankton TAB	20 King Street, Hamilton	TAB Board Venue
Te Rapa TAB	618 Te Rapa Road, Hamilton	TAB Board Venue
Chartwell Liquor	13 Lynden Court, Hamilton	Pub TAB
5 Crossroads Sports Bar	236 Peachgrove Road, Hamilton	Pub TAB
Dinsdale Tavern	124 Whatawhata Road, Hamilton	Pub TAB
Hamilton Cosy Club	Claudlands Road, Hamilton	Pub TAB
Eastside Tavern	Cnr Cook & Grey Streets, Hamilton	Pub TAB
Yardhouse Grandview	Cnr Grandview Road & Hyde Avenue, Hamilton	Pub TAB
Te Rapa Tavern	45 Sunshine Avenue, Hamilton	Pub TAB
Aleways Inn	Cnr Commerce & High Streets, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
Flagstaff Cafe and Sports Bar	Flagstaff Shopping Centre, River Road North, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
Glenview Club	211 Peacockes Road, Hamilton	Self-service terminal

Proposed Prohibition on New TAB Board Venues

- **TAB venues in the Hamilton City District:**

Name	Address	Type of Outlet
Hamilton Combined Returned Services Club	50 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
SkyCity Hamilton Zone Bar and Vue Bar	346 Victoria Street, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
Smokey's Pool and Gaming Lounge	38A Hood Street, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
Waikato Commerce Club	197 Collingwood Street, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
The Hillcrest Tavern	Cnr Clyde & York Streets, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
The Riv Bars and Café	Clyde Street Shopping Centre, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
Cock & Bull Te Rapa	Cnr Maui Street & Church Road, Hamilton	Self-service terminal
The Local (Hamilton)	36 Bryant Road, Hamilton	Self-service terminal

Proposed Prohibition on New TAB Board Venues

- **Hamilton City currently has two TAB Board Venues.**
- **Council only has jurisdiction over TAB Board Venues.**
- **A prohibition on TAB Board Venues results in the TAB offering being established in pubs and hotels. The TAB Board Venue environment is the safest race and sports betting environment.**

Venue Types – TAB Board Venues

The photos below are of established TAB Board Venues (council has jurisdiction over these types of venues):



**TAB Board Venue at
20 King Street,
Frankton**

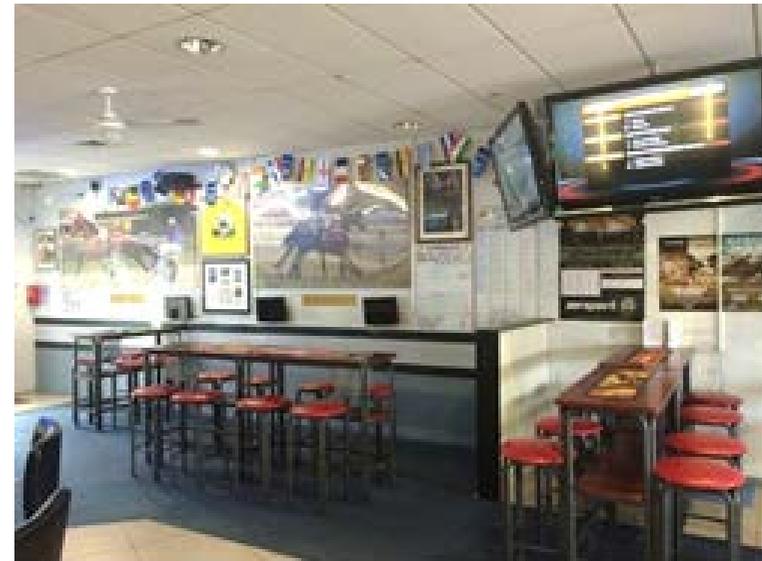


**TAB Board Venue at
618 Te Rapa Road,
Hamilton**



Venue Types – Pub TABs

The photos below are of a Pub TAB (council has no jurisdiction over these types of venues)



**5 Crossroads Sports Bar,
236 Peachgrove Road, Hamilton**

Venue Types – TAB Self-Service Venue

The photos below are of a TAB self-service terminal venue (council has no jurisdiction over these types of venues)



**Smokey's Pool & Gaming Lounge,
Hood Street, Hamilton**

Alcohol Free Environment

- **TAB Board Venues are unique in that they are one of the few venues that offer the ability to participate in gambling in an alcohol free environment.**
- **Alcohol is a factor which is known to contribute to problem gambling.**
- **Two or more alcoholic drinks makes it more difficult to resist the urge to gamble. Continued alcohol consumption results in unplanned, extended gambling.**
- **In the TAB Board Venue environment, the staff do not have the dual role of serving alcohol and food. They are never distracted from their core host responsibility role.**

TAB Board Venue Hours are Modest

- The standard trading hours of TAB Board Venues are:

Monday	11am – 7pm
Tuesday	11am – 7pm
Wednesday	11am – 8pm
Thursday	11am – 10pm
Friday	11am – 10pm
Saturday	9am – 8pm
Sunday	11am – 7pm

- The prohibition on TAB Board Venues results in the TAB offering being available late at night in bars, clubs and hotels.

Race and Sports Betting

- **Race and sports betting does not need the same restrictions as other forms of gambling may.**
- **Only 7.52% of problem gamblers report a problem with race betting.**
- **Only 2.50% of problem gamblers report a problem with sports betting.**
- **64.57% of problem gamblers report a problem with gaming machines.**

Conclusion – TAB Policy

- **A prohibition on TAB Board Venues is counterproductive on harm minimisation grounds. This leads to:**
 - **Betting in an environment with alcohol;**
 - **Betting in premises that have long trading hours; and**
 - **Betting in premises where the staff are not solely dedicated and focused on their harm minimisation role.**
- **The current policy cap of four TAB Board Venues is appropriate.**
- **Concern no longer exists re use of gaming funds at TAB Board Venues – amended section 33.**

Hamilton City Council's Class 4 Gaming Machine Policy



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Summary

The New Zealand Racing Board invites council to:

- **Replace the current sinking lid with a cap at current numbers (30 venues and 457 machines);**
- **Retain the current relocation provisions; and**
- **Retain the current discretionary hearing process.**

Cap at Current Numbers Appropriate

- **The Gambling Act seeks to balance the potential harm from gambling against the benefits of using gaming machines for community fundraising.**
- **The problem gambling rate in New Zealand is low – 0.7% of the adult population (all forms of gambling).**

Community Funding Reliance High

- **Local funding of over \$8.88 million annually.**
- **New regulations mean local funding can only come from local machines.**
- **A reduction in local venues will lead to a direct reduction in local grants.**

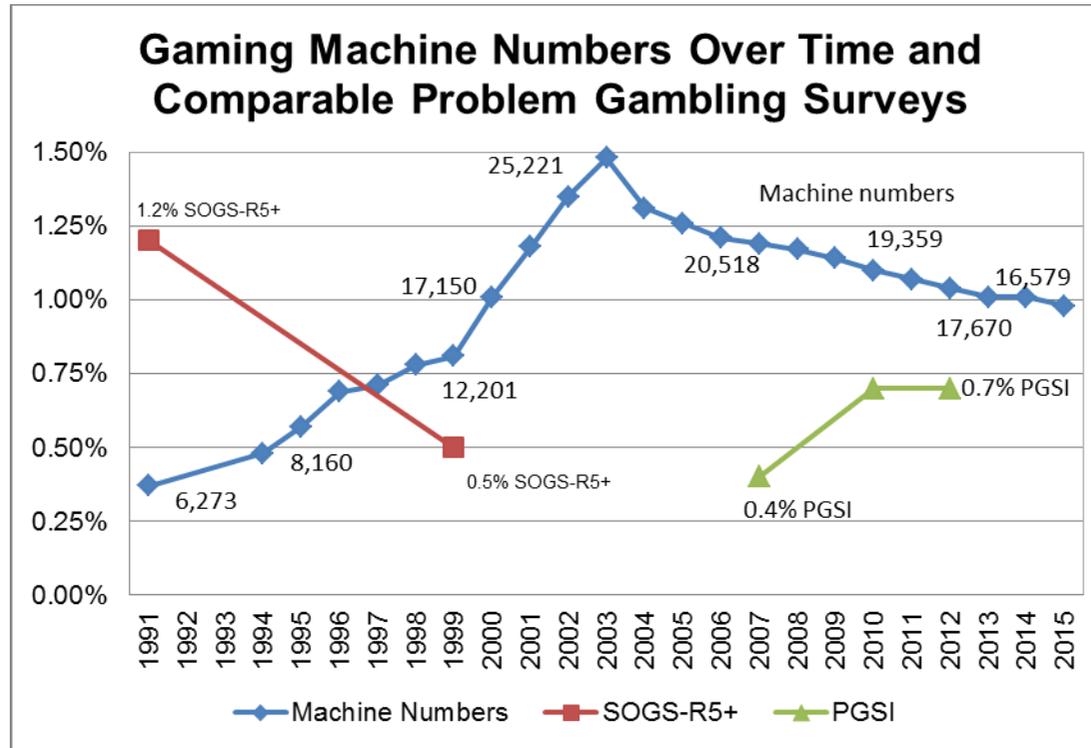
Community Funding Reliance High

- **Auckland Super City report:**
 - **75% of community organisations are moderately or totally reliant on gaming machine funding to fund core business activities.**
 - **68% of community organisations would be unlikely to find another source of funding.**

Problem Gambling and Machine Numbers

- **Problem gamblers are highly adaptive people, who are likely to simply move to another venue, another form of gambling or gamble on the internet.**
- **A person who is addicted to gambling will simply travel the short distance to the next bar which has gaming machines.**
- **Preventing a new venue hosting 9 gaming machines will however reduce casual and recreational play, and thus reduce turnover and the funds available for distribution.**

No Direct Link Between Problem Gambling Rates and Gaming Machine Numbers



SOGS – R5+ = South Oaks Gambling Screen
PGSI = Problem Gambling Severity Index

Retaining the Existing Relocation Provisions

- **Section 102(5A) of the Gambling Act requires councils to consider having a relocation policy.**
- **Allowing relocation enables venues to move from residential areas to the town centres.**
- **Allowing relocation enables venues to move to new, modern refurbished premises.**

Retaining the Existing Relocation Provisions



The old Te Rapa Tavern



The new Te Rapa Tavern

Retaining the Existing Relocation Provisions

- **Allowing relocation enables venues to move out of earthquake prone buildings.**
- **Allowing relocation creates fairness in cases of fire, earthquake, lease termination, public works acquisition and site redevelopment.**
- **Allowing relocation prevents landlords demanding unreasonable rentals.**
- **Not allowing relocation entrenches venues in their current location.**

Retaining the Discretionary Hearing Process

- **Existing discretionary process enables applications to be considered on their merits and for common sense decisions to be made.**
- **Venues will want to move out of residential areas to gambling permitted areas, but will find that they are 100 metres from residentially zoned land.**
- **5 Crossroads McDonalds and Brooklyn Motor Lodge examples.**
- **Classic Builders showhome example.**

Conclusion – Gaming Machine Policy

- **A cap at current numbers strikes a fair balance.**
- **The problem gambling rate is low.**
- **Community funding reliance is extremely high (over \$8.8 million annually to Hamilton City).**
- **A sinking lid on gaming machines will only impact on casual and recreational play as a problem gambler will travel to the next venue or worse may start gambling online.**

Conclusion – Gaming Machine Policy

- **Less local gaming machines means less local community funding.**
- **Allowing relocation will enable venues to move out of run down premises, out of earthquake prone buildings and prevent landlords demanding unreasonable rentals.**
- **The discretionary hearing process enables common sense to apply.**