
Regulatory and Hearings Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee held in the Council Chamber and via Audio Visual Link, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 9:30 am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Mark Donovan
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr Ewan Wilson
Heamana Tuarua

Members Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary
Cr Maxine van Oosten
Cr Louise Hutt
Cr Anna Casey-Cox
Cr Geoff Taylor (via Audio Visual Link)

In Attendance: Mayor Paula Southgate
Cr Sarah Thomson (via Audio Visual Link)
Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf
Michelle Hawthorne – Governance & Assurance Manager
Greg Morton – Policy Bylaw Lead
Carmen Fookes – Policy Advisor

Governance Team: Nicholas Hawtin and Arnold Andrews – Governance Advisors
Corey Bruntlett - Governance and Elected Member Support Coordinator

1. Apologies – *Tono aroha*

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr van Oosten)
Apologies for absence from Cr Huaki, Cr Tauariki and Cr Bydder.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr van Oosten)
That the agenda is confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga*

Cr Donovan declared a conflict of interest in relation to Item 5 (Class 4 Gambling Venues and TAB Venues Policies Engagement Report) in relation to the submitter, Grassroots Trust Limited. He did not take part in the discussion during this submission.

4. Confirmation of the Regulatory and Hearings Open Minutes of 22 August 2023

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Donovan)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting held on 22 August 2023 as a true and correct record.

5. Class 4 Gambling Venues and TAB Venues Policies Engagement Report

[Jarrod True](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of the of the Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes notably a sinking lid to gaming machines and preventing relocation and outlined the positive benefits of relocation. He responded to questions related to The Māori Party making changes to the gambling legislation and relocation of gambling venues.

[David Douglas](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of the Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes which would reduce the financial support given to the community and reduce the funding that makes the sport accessible.

[Ainsley Leslie](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes especially the creation of a sinking lid to gaming machines due to the impact it would have on community clubs throughout the Waikato. She responded to questions related to the current sinking lid policy.

[Mathew Cooper & Amy Marfell \(Sport Waikato\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes. and the need to review relocations on a case by case basis. He responded to questions related to the amount of funding from gambling for clubs across the Waikato and their reliance on such funding.

Cr Donovan left as Chair prior to the below submitter stating a potential conflict of interest, and did not take part in the discussion of their submission. Cr Wilson (Deputy Chair) assumed the role of Chair during the submission.

[Martin Bradley \(Grassroots Trust Limited\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes and the potential negative impacts of reducing gambling levels by bringing in a cap on machines which would impact funding to the community. He responded to questions in relation to the central government's Problem Gambling Account and its current surplus and best practise with gambling.

Cr Donovan resumed the role of Chair.

[Richard Wall \(National Public Health Service, Te Whatu Ora Waikato\)](#) spoke to their submission in support of the Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes. He spoke on the harm caused by gambling within the community and how it is underreported. He responded to questions in relation to whether the current Council policy was having any significant benefit and defining harm to the community.

The meeting was adjourned 10:50am to 11:07am

[Chris Rollitt \(The Cook\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes and the need for Council to be involved in the planning of Class 4 Gambling machines. He responded to questions in relation to the need for a relocation policy and the introduction of new regulations' requirements.

[Terry Booth \(Waikato Golf Association \(inc\)\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes and the impacts the changes will have on funding on golf clubs across the Waikato.

[Kay Kristensen \(Problem Gambling Foundation \(PGF Group\)\)](#) spoke to their submission in support of the Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes and the need for the sinking lid policy and relocation. She responded to questions in relation to whether the current sinking lid policy is having any positive impact on reducing harm and relocation of gambling sites.

[David Smart and Amy Sparks \(Hamilton Squash and Tennis Club\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes. They stated that gambling provides significant financial support to the community clubs. He responded to questions in relation to the demographic makeup of the club and the view on the source of funds received.

[Serene Teokotai \(Te Kohao Health LTD\)](#) spoke to their submission spoke to their submission in support of the Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' and the crucial need for stricter regulations on gambling, stop further venues and restrict relocation. She responded to questions in relation to the impacts of gambling on sport access to Maaori youth within the community.

[Thomas Nabbs \(Te Tamawai Trust\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes and the impacts the changes will have on funding on community groups and clubs throughout the Waikato and that the benefits outweigh the harm to the community. He responded to questions related to relocation of venues away from high deprivation areas, redistribution of funds and equity.

[Heidi Green \(True Colours Children's Health Trust\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies' changes and that the funding streams being lost could cause major harm to their organisation and impact children throughout the community. They supported the current cap and also advancing a relocation policy.

Elected Members requested the following matters be addressed in the Deliberations and Approval Report:

- Specific data collation of sinking lid policy to reduction of harm
- Sites in low deprivation areas, funding coming back to low socioeconomic areas
- Data about moving venues from high deprivation to low deprivation areas and its impact
- Understanding current legislation about relocations
- Relocations policy in other councils (restricting certain areas)
- Evidence of Irwin Report
- Unspent Ministry of Health levies
- Correlation of reduced physical education and gambling harm (obesity and social deprivation)
- Public health departments which have a policy on gambling harm – sinking lid or similar
- Gambling harm
- Impact of reducing machines on online gambling
- Relocation – criteria in place and what can be done
- If any relocations have occurred under current policy, and any club mergers under current policy

Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr Wilson)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee

- a) receives the report;
- b) hears and considers the submissions to the draft Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venues Policies;
- c) notes that the Deliberations and Approval report will be considered at the 26 October 2023 Community and Natural Environment Committee meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 12:42pm.