

# Liquor and Gaming News

December 2015

## SEASONAL ALERTS

### Liquor and Gaming Branch – office hours over Christmas and New Year

The Liquor and Gaming Branch offices will be closing for the holiday period:

**Closing:** 3 pm – Thursday, 24 December 2015.

**Opening:** 8.45 am – Monday, 4 January 2016

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### Trading – Christmas and New Year

The Commissioner for Licensing has authorised opening hours to be extended for premises holding **general, club, and on-licences** as follows:

- **Christmas Eve** – midnight until 2 am on Christmas Day.
- **New Years Eve** – midnight until 3 am on New Year's Day.

Licensees should examine their trading needs for the festive season and, if necessary, apply for an OOHP or an extension of their existing OOHP.

**Applications for an OOHP must be made by Monday, 14 December 2015 and [can be made online](#).**

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### Taking a holiday?

Licensees must notify the Commissioner in writing (an email is sufficient) if they will be away for more than 14 days. The written notice must specify the length of time the licensee will be away and the details of the person left in charge.

In the case of absence in an emergency, the licensee should notify the Commissioner at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

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## REGULATORY NEWS

### Amendments to the Liquor Licensing Act

The Liquor Licensing Amendment Bill 2015 passed through both houses of Parliament on 19 November 2015. This is the culmination of over two years of work which included a discussion paper, a proposal paper and lengthy consultation with industry and other stakeholders.

Next steps include drafting guidelines and regulations, and communicating the new requirements to stakeholders before proclamation of the legislation which is expected in late March/early April 2016.

The Branch would like to thank all stakeholders who participated in the review.

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### Social and Economic Impact Study of Gambling in Tasmania

The third Social and Economic Impact Study of Gambling in Tasmania is now complete. A consortium led by ACIL Allen Consulting Pty Ltd completed the study, which was undertaken in two parts.

Part A, completed in December 2014 and tabled in Parliament in March 2015, fulfils the legislative requirement for the Treasurer to undertake a prevalence study of gambling. It provides an update of components from the first and second studies with an analysis of key trends and comparisons with other states and previous Tasmanian studies, including, but not limited to an update of the gambling industry structure and characteristics; changes and trends in gambling behaviour; and revenue. Part A also provides an update of the social and economic impacts of gambling in the same local government areas included in the 2011 study.

Part B, completed and tabled in Parliament in November 2015, assesses the harm minimisation measures that were put in place in Tasmania since the first study in 2008, with a particular focus on the Responsible Gambling Mandatory Code of Practice for Tasmania. It comprises a longitudinal study with first contact made during the 2011 study and the latest contact made in December 2014, as well as in depth interviews and consultations.

The third study is available on [our website](#) in three volumes, supplementary material and a summary report.

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### Tasmanian Gaming Commission Annual Report

The *Tasmanian Gaming Commission 2014-15 Annual Report* was tabled in Parliament at the end of October, [and is available on our website](#).

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### Annual licence fee – a reminder

Liquor licensees will receive an invoice for payment for the annual fee in January 2016 advising the due amount and payment options available.

If the annual fee is not paid by 31 March 2016, an additional fee of 10 per cent of the amount due is payable.

To assist in this process Licensees are reminded to email any changes to contact details or postal addresses to [licensing@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:licensing@treasury.tas.gov.au). If the licensed premises is no longer operating, the licensee may surrender the liquor licence to avoid invoices being raised.

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## **Fines against Wrest Point Hotel Casino**

The Commission has recently issued two fines to ANH – Wrest Point Hotel Casino. These fines are for allowing a gaming machine to function in a manner in which it was not designed or programmed to function:

- \$17 500 for a breach detected in April 2015 in relation to having incorrect button panels in place; and
- \$23 100 for a breach detected in July 2015 in relation to having incorrect button panels in place.

The level of the most recent fine reflects the seriousness with which the Commission views such breaches and the Commission's commitment to ensuring that the gambling industry in Tasmania is strongly regulated.

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## **New fax number**

Please note that the Hobart and Launceston offices of the Liquor and Gaming Branch have a new fax number (03) 6173 0218.

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## **Gaming Venues – Use of Unlicensed Staff could cost you big \$\$\$**

A gaming venue operator must not employ or use the services of a person to exercise or perform any function of a special employee. To do so is an offence that could attract a fine of up to \$7 700. If in any doubt regarding an employee's licence status please contact the Liquor and Gaming Branch on 6166 4040.

## **What are the functions of a special employee?**

Whilst employed by the holder of a licensed premises gaming licence the following are prescribed duties for a special employee;

- supervise and control:
    - (a) a game of keno;
    - (b) gaming machine gaming;
  - make minor adjustments to a gaming machine;
  - make payouts to players from a gaming machine;
  - issue keno tickets;
  - undertake duties set out in any control system procedures or manuals applicable to the licence holder that the employee works for.
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## **Advertising of gambling products – responsible gambling message**

Licensed Premises Gaming (LPG) licence holders are reminded that, in accordance with the Responsible Gambling Mandatory Code of Practice for Tasmania, responsible gambling messages must be included in all advertising of gambling products. Licensees should particularly note that this includes internet advertising.

The [Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission Licensed Premises Gaming Licence Rules](#) includes the following requirement in relation to advertising:

13.1 All advertising of gambling products by LPG operators must:

- m) Include responsible gambling messages in all media (including internet) advertising that incorporates the name and telephone number for the Gambling Helpline, to a size and form which meets the requirements of the *Tasmanian Gaming Commission Gambling Product Advertising Standards* document.

A [fact sheet](#) is available which provides examples and advice to licence holders advertising under the Gambling Product Advertising Standards.

## INDUSTRY DATA

- [Licence applications with the Commissioner for Licensing and recent decisions.](#)
- [Liquor industry data.](#)
- [Data relating to gaming and wagering.](#)

### Disciplinary actions taken by the Tasmanian Liquor Gaming Commission July – November 2015

Licence holder	Section of Act	Breach	TLGC Meeting	Outcome
Milgab Pty Ltd – Gray's Hotel Georgetown	112S(1)(f)	Failure to discharge a financial obligation.	6 July 2015	Fine \$700
Australian National Hotels Pty Ltd – Wrest Point Hotel Casino	98	Allowing a gaming machine to be played whilst it did not function in a manner in which it was designed or programmed to function.	6 July 2015	Fine \$17 500
Bally Technologies ANZ Pty Ltd	112S(1A)(b)	Supplying unsatisfactory gaming machine game equipment.	7 October 2015	Letter of censure
Australian National Hotels Pty Ltd – Wrest Point Hotel Casino	98	Allowing a gaming machine to be played whilst it did not function in a manner in which it was designed or programmed to function.	15 November 2015	Fine \$23 100

#### Contact Details

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