

Submitted 18/03/2020

The Secretary
Department of Treasury and Finance
GPO Box 174
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Attention: Future Gaming Market Project
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Black Buffalo Hotel is a member of Kalis Hospitality which currently owns and operates seven venues throughout the state which will be impacted by The Future of Gaming in Tasmania Policy which is to come into effect in 2023.

We are generally in support of the proposed summary changes and would like the following items to be considered during the development of the detailed legislation:

Venue Licences

Black Buffalo Hotel requests that the licences be in perpetuity rather than for 20 years which has been suggested. Granting perpetuity licences will give operators like ourselves the confidence to invest in this area of our business which has the potential to lead to employment growth within our organisation.

Community Support Levy

We are very much in favour of this levy. We believe that it will be a great way to assist in improving sporting facilities and as a result will encourage people to be more physically active.

The CSL will also provide funding to assist in minimising harm from problem gambling which can only be a positive thing for the community.

Future Technological Changes

The new legislation needs to be non-restrictive regarding technological advancements to gaming products in the future. This would enable the state to remain competitive in the industry by having the capacity to offer the same products available in other states and territories.

Increase the EGM limitation of 30 lines to 50 lines

As you would be aware, the generic setup of an EGM is to allow playing 50 lines. Currently all EGM's in Tasmania are customised to meet our states legislation of playing 30 lines. EGM manufacturers will likely be unwilling to customise machines for smaller orders or charge a price which will be prohibitive for the smaller operators. Increasing the playable lines to 50 will reduce investment costs and would be a move towards levelling the playing field, giving the smaller operators in Tasmania a fairer chance to be able to operate independent of the larger organisations.

Licensed Monitoring Operator

It is imperative that the Licensed Monitoring Operator (LMO) be independent to the industry.

Additionally, there needs to be some form of regulation in terms of costs charged by the Licensed Monitoring Operator to ensure that the new policy has the best opportunity of success for the industry.

Transitional Arrangements

As a member of THA we are authorising THA to negotiate these arrangements on our behalf to ensure our fair treatment when moving from the current legislation to the new legislation.