

Date: 17/3/2020

HOTEL NAME: Elwick Hotel

Licensee: Sarah O'Keefe

RESPONSE TO THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE *FUTURE OF GAMING IN TASMANIA*

The Elwick Hotel was built in 1904 and is located on Main Road, Glenorchy. It has been in the heart of the community for many years. The hotel employs 18 staff. There is a mixture of full time, part-time and casual employees. One staff member, Merv Wrathall, has worked at the hotel for 42 years. The hotel is open seven days a week and has a busy gaming room with 30 EGMs, a lounge bar and public bar. We offer food, with a snack menu which is available while the hotel is open. The hotel offers a range of activities for the locals. They enjoy, Taskeno, meat raffles, punters club, footy tipping and joker jackpot. We have live music or a DJ once a month. We have contributed donations to many local charities. A major fundraiser The Elwick undertakes every year is for The Ugly Bartender campaign for the Leukaemia Foundation. We have raised over \$49,000 over the last 6 years for this good cause. We have also raised money recently for Ronald McDonald House, Give Me 5 for Kids, Guide Dogs Tasmania, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Edmund Rice Camps, Hobart City Mission Christmas Appeal, Legacy Hobart, Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal and many more. We have also supported a local boxing club and cricket club with donations to help them with uniforms and travelling costs.

I am broadly supportive of the Government's policy on the *Future of Gaming in Tasmania*, particularly in its stated intention to create a sustainable gaming industry. Tasmania's gaming sector has been an important driver of jobs, regional economic activity and investment across the state.

The Government's intention to individually licence venues is welcomed by gaming venue operators. To safeguard the sustainability of the gaming industry, I encourage the Government to provide a competitive regulatory environment that allows Tasmanian venues to offer gaming products that are comparable to other jurisdictions.

The success of the proposed model will be heavily reliant on the appointment of a Licenced Monitoring Operator with a strong understanding of the local market and established relationships with individual venues. The LMO must have flexibility to provide a range of services that support the individual needs of venues.

It is important that pubs and clubs are given significant time to prepare for and transition to an individual venue licence model. The experience in other jurisdictions, such as Victoria, shows the transition can be challenging and costly to businesses. We are seeking certainty about the future operating model and a commitment to provide the industry with adequate time to transition to the new arrangements.

We recognise the importance of the Community Support Levy in providing funds for a range of charitable and community organisations. The gaming industry is proud to support the community in this way. The Government's proposal to increase CSL funds provides scope to assist a greater number of clubs, sports groups and community events. The gaming industry should receive greater acknowledgement when funds are allocated, and consideration should be given to ways that the industry can be more involved in the distribution of funds.

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